

S. O. angl. 8° 373 72 (24)
Chaucer Society.

I, 24.67

A One-Text Print
of
Chaucer's Minor Poems,

BEING THE BEST TEXT OF EACH POEM IN
THE PARALLEL-TEXT EDITION, ETC.,

FOR HANDY USE BY EDITORS AND READERS.

EDITED BY

FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.



PART I.

- I. *The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse* (Chaucer's 2nd original Poem), from the Fairfax MS 16, Bodleian Library.
- II. *The Compleynte to Pite* (Chaucer's earliest original Poem), from the Fairfax MS 16.
- III. *The Parlament of Foules*, from MS Gg. 4. 27, in the University Library, Cambridge.
- IV. *The Complaynt of Mars*, from the Fairfax MS 16.
- V. *The A B C* (perhaps Chaucer's earliest Poem), from MS Ff 5. 30, in the University Library, Cambridge. With the original French Prayer to the Virgin, from which the *A B C* is freely translated: this from DeGuileville's "*Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine*," MS 1645, Fonds Français, &c., in the National Library, Paris; edited by PAUL MEYER.

PUBLISHT FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY
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1871.

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The Chaucer Society.

Editor in Chief:—F. J. FURNIVALL, Esq., 3, St George's Square, Primrose Hill, N. W.

Hon. Sec.:—W. A. DALZIEL, Esq., 67, Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, N.

THE CHAUCER SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

To do honour to CHAUCER, and to let the lovers and students of him see how far the best unprinted Manuscripts of his works differed from the printed texts, this Society was founded in 1868. There were then, and are still, many questions of metre, pronunciation, orthography, and etymology yet to be settled, for which more prints of Manuscripts were and are wanted; and it is hardly too much to say that every line of Chaucer contains points that need reconsideration. The founder (Mr Furnivall) began with *The Canterbury Tales*, and has given of them (in parallel columns in Royal 4to) six of the best theretofore unprinted Manuscripts known. Inasmuch as the parallel arrangement necessitated the alteration of the places of certain tales in some of the MSS, a print of each MS has been issued separately, following the order of its original. The first six MSS printed have been: the Ellesmere (by leave of the Earl of Ellesmere); the Hengwrt (by leave of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq.); the Camb. Univ. Libr., MS Gg. 4. 27; the Corpus, Oxford; the Petworth (by leave of Lord Leconfield); and the Lansdowne 851 (Brit. Mus.). The Harleian 3374 will follow.

Of Chaucer's *Minor Poems*,—the MSS of which are generally later than the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*,—all the available MSS have been printed so as to secure all the existing evidence for the true text.

The *Boece* from the best MS, and the *Troilus* Parallel-Text from the 3 best MSS, are now all in type.

To secure the fidelity and uniform treatment of the texts, Mr F. J. Furnivall has read and will read all with their MSS.

Autotypes of all the best Chaucer MSS. either have been or will be publisht.

The Society's publications are issued in two Series, of which the first contains the different texts of Chaucer's works; and the Second, such originals of and essays on these as can be procured, with other illustrative treatises, and Supplementary Tales.

FIRST SERIES.

The Society's issue for 1868, in the **First Series**, is,

- I. The Prologue and Knight's Tale, of the *Canterbury Tales*, in 6 parallel Texts (from the 6 MSS named below), together with Tables, showing the Groups of the Tales, and their varying order in 38 MSS of the Tales, and in 5 old printed editions, and also Specimens from several MSS of the "Moveable Prologues" of the *Canterbury Tales*,—The Shipman's Prologue, and Franklin's Prologue,—when moved from their right places, and of the Substitutes for them. (The Six-Text, Part I.)

- II. The Prologue and Knight's Tale from the Ellesmere MS.

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|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| III. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Hengwrt | " | 154 |
| IV. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Cambridge | " | Gg. 4. 27 |
| V. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Corpus | " | Oxford |
| VI. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Petworth | " | |
| VII. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Lansdowne | " | 851 |

(separate issues of the Texts forming Part I of the Six-Text edition.)

The issue for 1869, in the **First Series**, is,

- VIII. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales: Ellesmere MS.

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|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|--|
| IX. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Hengwrt | " | } with an
Appendix of
"Gamelyn"
from six MSS. |
| X. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Cambridge | " | |
| XI. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Corpus | " | |
| XII. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Petworth | " | |
| XIII. | " | " | " | " | " | " | Lansdowne | " | |

(separate issues of the Texts forming the Six-Text, Part II, No. XIV.)

The issue for 1870, in the **First Series**, is,

- XIV. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales, with an Appendix of the Spurious Tale of Gamelyn, in 6 parallel Texts. (Six-Text, Part II.)

The issue for 1871, in the **First Series**, is,

- XV. The Man of Law's, Shipman's, and Prioress's Tales, with Chaucer's own Tale of Sir Thopas, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, and 10 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS.

- XVI. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Ellesmere MS.

- XVII. " " " " " " " Cambridge MS.

- XVIII. " " " " " " " Corpus MS.

- XIX. The Shipman's, Prioress's, and Man of Law's Tales, from the Petworth MS.

- XX. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Lansdowne MS.

(each with woodcuts of fourteen drawings of Tellers of Tales in the Ellesmere MS.)

SECOND SERIES.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1868** is,

1. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part I. This work includes an amalgamation of Prof. F. J. Child's two Papers on the use of the final *-e* by Chaucer (in T. Wright's ed. of *The Canterbury Tales*) and by Gower (in Dr Pauli's ed. of the *Confessio Amantis*).

2. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part I. : 1. Prof. Ebert's Review of Sandras's *Etude sur Chaucer*, translated by J. W. van Rees Hoets, M.A. ; 2. A 13th-century Latin Treatise on the *Chilindre* (of the *Shipman's Tale*), edited by Mr E. Brock.

3. A Temporary Preface to the Society's Six-Text edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Part I, attempting to show the right Order of the Tales, and the Days and Stages of the Pilgrimage, &c. &c., by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1869** is,

4. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part II.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1870** is,

5. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part III.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1871** is,

6. Trial-Forewords to my Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Minor Poems* for the Chaucer Society (with a try to set Chaucer's Works in their right order of Time), by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I. (This Part brings-out, for the first time, Chaucer's long early but hopeless love.)

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1872** is,

7. Originals and Analogues of some of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part I. 1. The original of the *Man of Law's Tale* of Constance, from the French Chronicle of Nicholas Trivet, Arundel MS 56, ab. 1340 A.D., collated with the later copy, ab. 1400, in the National Library at Stockholm ; copied and edited, with a translation, by Mr Edmund Brock. 2. The Tale of "Merelaus the Emperor," from the Early-English version of the *Gesta Romanorum* in Harl. MS 7333 ; and 3. Part of Matthew Paris's *Vita Offæ Primi*, both stories illustrating incidents in the *Man of Law's Tale*. 4. Two French Fabliaux like the *Reeve's Tale*. 5. Two Latin Stories like the *Friar's Tale*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1873** is,

8. Albertano of Brescia's *Liber Consilii et Consolationis*, A.D. 1246 (the Latin source of the French original of Chaucer's *Melibe*), edited from the MSS, by Dr Thor Sundby.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1874** is,

9. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part II. : 3. John of Hoveden's *Practica Chilindri*, edited from the MS, with a translation, by Mr E. Brock. 4. Chaucer's use of the final *-e*, by Joseph Payne, Esq. 5. Mrs E. Barrett-Browning on Chaucer : being those parts of her review of the *Book of the Poets*, 1842, which relate to him ; here reprinted by leave of Mr Robert Browning. 6. Professor Bernhard Ten-Brink's critical edition of Chaucer's *Compleynte to Pite*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1875** is,

10. Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part II. 6. Alphon-sus of Lincoln, a Story like the *Prioress's Tale*. 7. How Reynard caught Chanticleer, the source of the *Nun's-Priest's Tale*. 8. Two Italian Stories, and a Latin one, like the *Pardoner's Tale*. 9. The Tale of the Priest's Bladder, a story like the *Summoner's Tale*, being 'Li dis de le Vescie a Prestre,' par Jakes de Basiw. 10. Petrarch's Latin Tale of Griseldis (with Boccaccio's Story from which it was re-told), the original of the *Clerk's Tale*. 11. Five Versions of a Pear-tree Story like that in the *Merchant's Tale*. 12. Four Versions of The Life of Saint Cecilia, the original of the *Second Nun's Tale*.

11. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part IV.

12. Life-Records of Chaucer, Part I, The Robberies of Chaucer by Richard Brerelay and others at Westminster, and at Hatcham, Surrey, on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1390, with some Account of the Robbers, from the Enrolments in the Public Record Office, by Walford D. Selby, Esq., of the Public Record Office.

13. Thynne's Animadversions (1599) on Speght's *Chaucers Workes*, re-edited from the unique MS, by Fredk. J. Furnivall, with fresh Lives of William and Francis Thynne, and the only known fragment of *The Pilgrims Tale*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1876** is,

14. Life-Records of Chaucer, Part II, The Household Ordinances of King Edward II, June 1323 (as englisht by Francis Tate in March 1601 A.D.), with extracts from those of King Edward IV, to show the probable duties of CHAUCER as Valet or Yeoman of the Chamber, and Esquire, to Edward III, of whose Household Book no MS is known; together with Chaucer's Oath as Controller of the Customs; and an enlargd Autotype of Hoccleve's Portrait of Chaucer; edited by F. J. Furnivall.

15. Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part III. 13. The Story of Constance, for the *Man of Law's Tale*. 14. The Boy killd by a Jew for singing 'Gaude Maria,' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*. 15. The Paris Beggar-boy murderd by a Jew for singing 'Alma redemptoris mater!' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*; with a Poem by Lydgate.

16. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part III. 7. Chaucer's Prioress, her Nun Chaplain and 3 Priests, illustrated from the Paper Survey of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester, by F. J. Furnivall. 8. Alliteration in Chaucer, by Dr Paul Lindner. 9. Chaucer a Wicliffite; a critical Examination of the *Parsons Tale*, by Herr Hugo Simon. 10. The sources of the Wife of Bath's Prologue: Chaucer not a borrower from John of Salisbury, by the Rev. W. W. Woolcombe.

17. Supplementary Canterbury Tales: 1. The Tale of *Beryn*, with a Prologue of the merry Adventure of the Pardoner with a Tapster at Canterbury, re-edited from the Duke of Northumberland's unique MS, by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I, the Text, with Wm. Smith's Map of Canterbury in 1588, now first engravd from his unique MS., and Ogilby's Plan of the Road from London to Canterbury in 1675.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1878** (there was none in **1877**) is,

18. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part IV. 11. On *here* and *there* in Chaucer (his Pronunciation of the two *e*'s), by Dr R. F. Weymouth; 12. On *a*. An Original Version of the *Knight's Tale*; *β*. the Date (1381) and Personages of the *Parlament of Foules*; *γ*. on *Anelyda and Arcite*, on Lollius, on Chaucer, and Boccaccio, &c, by Dr John Koch, with a fragment of a later *Palamon and Ercyte* from the Dublin MS D. 4. 18.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1882** (none in 1879, 80, 81) will probably be,

Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part V.

Messrs Trübner & Co., of 57 & 59, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C., are the Society's publishers, Messrs Clay and Taylor of Bungay its printers, and the Alliance Bank, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., its bankers. The yearly subscription is two guineas, due on every 1st January, beginning with Jan. 1, 1868. *More Members are wanted. All the Society's Publications can still be had. Those of the first year have just been reprinted.*

Prof. Child, of Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the Society's Honorary Secretary for America. Members' names and subscriptions may be sent to the Publishers, or to the Honorary Secretary,

W. A. DALZIEL, Esq., 67, Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, N.

New Shakspeare Society.

Director: F. J. FURNIVALL, Esq., 3, St George's Square, London, N.W.

Hon. Sec.: A. G. SNELGROVE, Esq., London Hospital, London, E.

Bankers: The Alliance Bank, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.

Founded in 1873 to further the study of Shakspeare's works chronologically and as a whole, and to print Parallel and other Texts of the Quartos and Folio of Shakspeare's Plays, and other works illustrating Shakspeare's time and the History of the Drama. Subscription, which constitutes membership, One Guinea, to be paid to the Hon. Sec.

The Society has already issued 29 important publications in 4to and 8vo.

Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles, at 6s. each, issued under Mr Furnivall's superintendence, by W. Griggs, Elm House, Hanover St, Peckham, S.E.

- XXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I:—1. '*The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse*,' from Thynne's ed. of 1532, the Fairfax MS 16, and Tanner MS 346; 2. '*the Compleynt to Pite*,' 3. '*the Parliament of Foules*,' and 4. '*the Compleynt of Mars*,' each from six MSS.
- XXII. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. '*The Parliament of Foules*,' from three MSS.
- XXIII. Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. two MS fragments of '*The Parliament of Foules*;' 2. the two differing versions of '*The Prologue to the Legende of Good Women*,' arranged so as to show their differences; 3. an Appendix of Poems attributed to Chaucer, i. '*The Balade of Pitee by Chauciers*;' ii. '*The Cronycle made by Chaucer*,' both from MSS written by Shirley, Chaucer's contemporary.
- XXIV. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, being the best Text from the Parallel-Text Edition, Part I, containing, I. *The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse*, II. *The Compleynt to Pite*, III. *The Parliament of Foules*, IV. *The Compleynt of Mars*, V. *The ABC*, with its original from De DeGuilleville's *Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine* (edited from the best Paris MSS by M. Paul Meyer).

The issue for 1872, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXV. Chaucer's Tale of Melibe, the Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, with the remaining 13 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS, and with Specimens of the Variations of 30 MSS in the Doctor-Pardoner Link. (6-Text, Pt IV.)
- XXVI. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Ellesmere MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXVII. The Wife's, Friar's, Summoner's, Monk's, and Nun's-Priest's Tales, from the Hengwrt MS, with 23 woodcuts of the Tellers of the Tales. (Part III.)
- XXVIII. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Cambridge MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXIX. A Treatise on the Astrolabe, addressed to his son Lowys, in 1391 A.D., by Geoffrey Chaucer, edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A.

The issue for 1873, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXX. The Six-Text Canterbury Tales, Part V, containing the Clerk's and Merchant's Tales.

The issue for 1874, in the **First Series** (ready in June 1873), is,

- XXXI. The Six-Text, Part VI, containing the Squire's and Franklin's Tales.
- XXXII to XXXVI. Large Parts of the separate issues of five MSS.

The issue for 1875, in the **First Series** (ready in September 1873), is,

- XXXVII. The Six-Text, Part VII, the Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, and Manciple's Tales, with the Blank-Parson Link.
- XXXVIII to XLIII. Large Parts of the separate issues of the Six MSS, bringing all up to the Parson's Tale.
- XLIV. A detailed Comparison of the *Troylus and Cryseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filosttrato*, with a Translation of all Passages used by Chaucer, and an Abstract of the Parts not used, by W. Michael Rossetti, Esq., and with a print of the *Troylus* from the Harleian MS 3943. Part I.
- XLV, XLVI. Ryme-Index to the Ellesmere MS of the Canterbury Tales, by Henry Cromie, Esq., M.A. Both in Royal 4to for the *Six-Text*, and in 8vo for the separate Ellesmere MS.
- XLVII. Notes and Corrections for the 8vo Ryme-Index, by H. Cromie, Esq.

The issue for 1876, in the **First Series**, is,

- XLVIII. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part I, 16 Autotypes, with a Note on the MSS, by F. J. Furnivall.

The issue for 1877, in the **First Series**, is,

- XLIX. The Six-Text, Part VIII, containing the Parson's Tale, with a Table of its Contents; and Mr Hy. Cromie's Notes and Corrections for the Ryme-Index (4to.), No. XLV.
- L to LV. Separate issues of the several MSS of the Parson's Tale.

The issue for 1878, in the **First Series**, is,

- LVI. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part II: 9 from the Cambridge MS Gg. 4. 27, and 1 from Lord Leconfield's MS.
- LVII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—5. *The ABC*, from 6 MSS; 6. *The Mother of God*, from 3 MSS; 7. *Anelida and Arcyte*, from 5 MSS and Caxton's print; 8. *The Former Age*, from 2 MSS (with the Latin original, and Chaucer's prose Englishing); 9. *To his Scrivener* from Shirley's MS and Stowe's print; 10. *The House of Fame*, from 2 MSS and Caxton's and Thynne's prints.

The issue for 1879, in the **First Series**, is,

- LVIII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part III, completing the *Parallel-Text*, and containing, 11. *The Legend of Good Women* from 5 MSS and Thynne's print; 12. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 13. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 6 MSS; 14. *The Envoy to Scogan* from 3 MSS; 15. *Marriage*, or *The Envoy to Bukton*, from 1 MS and Notary's and Thynne's prints; 16. *Gentilesse* from 6 MSS; 17. *Proverbs* from 3 MSS; 18. *Stedfastness* from 6 MSS; 19. *Fortune* from 6 MSS; 20. *Chaucer to his empty Purse*, from 6 MSS.

The issue for 1880, in the **First Series**, is,

- LIX. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—1a. *The Parliament of Foules* from 3 MSS; 2. *The A B C* from 6 MSS; 3. *Anelida and Arcite* from 6 MSS; 4. *The Legend of Good Women*, in whole or part from 4 MSS; 5. *The Complaint of Mars* from 3 MSS; 6. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 7. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 3 MSS; 8. *Gentilesse* from 3 MSS; 9. *Lack of Stedfastness* from Thynne's print and 2 MSS; 10. *Fortune* from 2 MSS and Caxton's print.
- LX. Odd-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, 3. *The A B C*, from 2 MSS; 4. *The House of Fame*, from the Pepys MS, &c.; 5. *The Legend of Good Women* from 3 MSS; 6. *The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse* from 1 MS; 7. *The Complaint to Pity* from 2 MSS; 8. *The Parliament of Fowles* from 1 MS; 9. *Truth* from 3 MSS; 10. *Envoy to Scogan* from 1 MS; 11. *Purse* from 1 MS.
- LXI. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, VI. *Mother of God*; VII. *Anelida*; VIII. *The Former Age*; IX. *Adam Scrivener*; X. *The House of Fame*; XI. *Legende*; XII. *Truth*; XIII. *Venus*; XIV. *Scogan*; XV. *Marriage*; XVI. *Gentilesse*; XVII. *Proverbs*; XVIII. *Stedfastness*; XIX. *Fortune*; XX. *Purse*.
- LXII. Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer MSS. Part III: 2 from Henry V's MS of the *Troilus*, when he was Prince of Wales (now Mr Bacon Frank's); 1 from Shirley's MS of the *ABC* at Sion Coll.

The issue for 1881, in the **First Series**, will be chosen from,

- LXIII. The Six-Text, Part IX, with colord Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Univers. MS Gg. 4. 27; Forewords, Title-pages for the three volumes, &c.; and Prof. Hiram Corson's Index to the Subjects and Names of *The Canterbury Tales*.
- LXIV to LXIX. 6 Appendixes to the 6 MSS of the Six-Text, with Woodcuts and colord Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and of 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Univ. MS, Gg. 4. 27, &c., and colord Lithographs of the 23 Ellesmere MS Miniatures. The Hengwrt MS, Part VI, will contain The Canon's-Yeoman's Tale, from the Lichfield Cathedral MS.
- LXX. Part II of Mr W. M. Rossetti's Comparison of Chaucer's *Troilus and Cryseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filostrato*. [Ready.]
- LXXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Troilus* from the Campsall MS, b. 1415 A.D. (written for Henry V when Prince of Wales), Harleian 2280, and Cambr. Univ. Libr. Gg. 4. 27. [Ready.]

Prof. Hiram Corson has also agreed to edit the Society's *Chaucer Concordance*. For 1882, Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter are making a *Ryme-Index to Chaucer's Minor Poems*. To their Subjects and Names, Prof. H. Corson is making an Index. For 1884, or 1885, Chaucer's *Boece* is ready for the First Series.

Among the Texts and Essays, &c., preparing for the Chaucer Society are:—

Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part V (*to be ready in 1882 or 1883*).

Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer Manuscripts, by F. J. Furnivall, Pt IV.

The Tale of *Beryn*, Part II. Introduction and Glossary, by Messrs Furnivall and W. G. Stone.

Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part V: 13. Chaucer's *Pardoner*: his character illustrated by documents of his time, by Dr J. J. Jusserand. 14. Why the *Romaunt of the Rose* is not Chaucer's, by Prof. Skeat, M.A. 15. (Probably) Chaucer's *Shipman*, by P. Q. Karkeek, Esq., of Dartmouth. 16. Chaucer's *Parson's Tale* compared with Frère Lorens's *Somme des Vices et des Vertus*, by Herr H. Simon.

Chaucer's *Road to Canterbury*, with Ogilby's Plan of it, 1675, and William Smith's Plan of the City of Canterbury in 1588; by the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, M.A., Hon. Sec. of the Kent Archæological Institute.

Life-Records of Chaucer, Part III, The Household book of Isabella, wife of Prince Lionel, third son of Edward III, in which the name of GEOFFREY CHAUCER first occurs; edited from the unique MS in the Brit. Museum, by Edward A. Bond, Esq., Chief Librarian. Part IV, Other Enrolments and Documents from the Public Record Office, the City of London Town-Clerk's Office, &c., edited by Walford D. Selby, Esq., and F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

'A detaild Comparison of Chaucer's *Knight's Tale* with the *Teseide* of Boccaccio,' by HENRY WARD, Esq., of the MS Department of the British Museum. [At Press.]

I.

The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse,

(OTHERWISE CALLED

“The Booke of the Duchesse,” and after, “Chaucers Dreame.”)

(This is Chaucer's 2nd Poem. The *Compleynte to Pite* is his first, and should be read first. See my *Trial-Forewords*.)

[*Fairfax MS 16 (vellum, Bodl. Libr.), leaf 130.*]

¶ **The booke of the Duchesse.**

[*Stowe's hand adds 'made by Geoffrey Chawcye at the request of the duke of Lancaster:
pitiously complaynyng the deathe of the sayd dutchesse / blanche /'*]

[*t̃ is for t with a curl over it. ñ is for n.*]

I Haue grete wonder / be this lyghte
How that I lyve / for day ne nyghte
I may nat slepe / wel nygh̃ noght̃
I have so many / an ydel thoght̃ 4
Purely / for defaulte of slepe
That by my trouthe / I take no kepe
Of noo thinge / how hyt cometh̃ or gooth̃
Ne me nys no thyng̃ / leve nor looth̃ 8
Al is ylyche goode / to me
Ioy or sorowe / wherso hyt be
ffor I haue felynge / in no thyng̃
But as yt were / a mased thyng̃ 12
Alway in poynt / to falle a-dovuñ
ffor sorwful / ymagynaciouñ
Ys alway hooly / in my mynde
And wel ye woote / agaynes kynde 16
Hyte were to lyveñ in thys wyse
ffor nature / wolde nat suffyse
To nooñ ertherly / creature
Nat longe tyme / to endure 20
With-oute slepe / and be in sorwe
And I ne may / no nyght̃ ne morwe
Slepe / and thys Melancolye¹
And drede I haue / for to dye 24

[¹ *Bodl. 638 leaves out lines 24—95.
A leaf is out of the MS.*]

Defaulte of slepe / and hevynesse
 Hath [sleyne] my spirite / of quyknesse
 That I haue loste / al lusty-hede
 Suche fantasies / ben in myñ hede 28
 So I not what / is best too doo
 But meñ myght^t axe me / why soo
 [I may not sleepe, and what me is <sup>[¹ From here to line 96, the writing
is quite late.] (Where from?)</sup>
 But nathles, whoe aske this 32
 Leseth his asking trewly
 My seluen can not tell why
 The southe, but trewly as I gesse
 I hold it be a sicknes 36
 That I haue suffred this eight yeere
 And yet my boote is neuer the nere
 For there is phisicien but one [leaf 130, back]
 That may me heale, but that is done 40
 Passe we ouer vntill efte
 That will not be, mote nedes be lefte
 Our first mater is good to kepe
 Soe when I sawe I might not slepe 44
 Til now late, this other night
 Vpon my bedde I sate vpright
 And bade one reche me a booke
 A Romaunce, and it me tok 48
 To rede, and driue the night away
 For me thought it beter play
 Then play either at Chesse or tables
 And in this boke were written fables 52
 That Clerkes had in olde tyme
 And other poets put in rime
 To rede, and for to be in minde
 While men loued the lawe in kinde 56
 This boke ne speake, but of such thinges
 Of quenes liues, and of kings
 And many other things smalle
 Amonge all this I fonde a tale 60

That me thought a wonder thing.
 This was the tale : There was a king
 That hight Seyes, and had a wife
 The best that might beare lyfe 64
 And this quene hight Alcyone
 Soe it befill, thereafter soone
 This king woll wenden ouer see
 To tellen shortly, whan that he 68
 Was in the see, thus in this wise
 Soche a tempest gan to rise
 That brake her maste and made it fal
 And cleft ther ship, and dreint hem all 72
 That neuer was founde, as it telles
 Borde ne man, ne nothing elles
 Right thus this king Seyes loste his life
 Now for to speake of Alcyone his wife 76
 This Lady that was left at home
 Hath wonder, that the king ne come
 Home, for it was a long terme
 Anone her herte began to yerne 80
 And for that her thought euermo
 It was not wele, her thought soe
 She longed soe after the king
 That certes it were a pitous thing 84
 To tell her hartely sorowfull life
 That she had, this noble wife
 For him alas, she loued alderbeste
 Anone she sent bothe eeste and weste 88
 To seke him, but they founde nought
 Alas (quoth shee) that I was wrought
 And where my lord my loue be deed?
 Certes I will neuer eate breede 92
 I make a uowe to my god here
 But I mowe of my Lord here.
 Soche sorowe this Lady to her toke
 That trewly I which made this booke] 96

¹ Had suche pittee / and suche rowthe [¹ leaf 131. *The old hand-*
writing begins again.]
 To rede hir sorwe / that by my trowthe
 I ferde the worse / al the morwe
 And aftir to thenken / oñ hir sorwe 100
 So whañ this lady / koude here noo worde
 That no mañ myght / fynde hir lorde
 Ful ofte she swovned / and sayed alas
 For sorwe / ful nygh woode she was 104
 Ne she koude / no rede but oon
 But dovne oñ knees / she sate anoon
 And wepte / that pittee was to here
 A mercy / swete lady dere 108
 Quod she Iuno / hir goddesse
 Helpe me out / of thys distresse
 And yeve me grace / my lord to se
 Soone / or wete wher so he be 112
 Or how he fareth / or in what wise
 And I shal make / yowe sacrifice
 And hooly youres / become I shal
 With good wille / body hert and al 116
 And but thow wilte / this lady swete
 Sende me grace / to slepe and mete
 In my slepe / somme certeyn sweven
 Wher thorgh that I may / knowe even 120
 Whethir my lorde / be quyke / or ded
 With that worde / she henge down the hed
 And felle A swowne / as colde as stoñ
 Hyr women kaught hir / vp anoon 124
 And broghten hir / in bed al naked
 And she forweped / and for-waked
 Was wery / and thus the ded slepe
 Fil oñ hir / or she tooke kepe 128
 Thorgh Iuno / that had herde hir bone
 That made hir / to slepe sone
 For as she prayede / ryght so was done
 In dede / for Iuno ryght anone 132

[leaf 131, back]

Called thus / hir messagere
 To doo hir erande / and he come nere
 Whañ he was come / she bad hym thus
 Go bet quod Iuno / to Morpheus 136
 Thou knowest hym wel / the god of slepe
 Now vnderstonde wel / and take kepe
 Sey thus oñ my halfe / that he
 Go faste / in-to the grete se 140
 And byd hym / that oñ al thyng
 That he take vp / Seys body the kynge
 That lyeth ful pale / and no thyng rody
 Bud hym crepe / in-to the body 144
 And doo hit gooñ / to Alchione
 The quene ther she / lyeth allone
 And shewe hir shortly / hit ys no nay
 How hit was dreynt / thys other day 148
 And do the body / speke ryght soo
 Ryght as hyt was / woned to doo
 The whiles that hit / was a lyve
 Goo now faste / and hye the blyve 152
 This messenger / toke leve and went
 Vpoñ hys wey / and never ne stent
 Til he come / to the derke valey
 That stant betwex / Roches twey 156
 Ther neuer yet / grew corne ne gras
 Ne tre ne noght / that oughte was
 Beste ne mañ / ne noght elles
 Save ther were / a fewe welles 160
 Came rennyng / fro the clyffes a-down
 That made a dedely / slepyng soun
 And Ronneñ down / ryght by a cave
 That was vnder / a rokke y-grave 164
 Amydde the valey / wonder depe
 There these goddys / lay and slepe
 Morpheus / and Eclympasteyre
 That was the god / of slepes eyre 168

That slepe and did / noon other werke [leaf 132]
 This cave was / also as derke
 As helle pitte / ouer al a-boute
 They had good leyser / for to route 172
 To envye / who mygh^t slepe beste
 Somme henge her chyn / vpon hir breste
 And slept vprygh^t / hir hed y-hedde
 And somme lay naked / in her bedde 176
 And slepe whiles / the dayes laste
 This messenger / come fleyng faste
 And cried .O. how / a-wake anoon
 Hit was for nogh^t / there herde hym non 180
 A-wake quod he / whoo ys lythe there
 And blew his horne / rygh^t in here heere
 And cried a-waketh / wonder hye
 This god of slepe / with hys on ye 184
 Caste vp / and axed / who clepeth there
 Hyt am I / quod this messagere
 Iuno bad / thow shuldest goon
 And tolde hym / what he shulde doon 188
 As I have tolde yow / here to-fore
 Hyt ys no nede / reherse hyt more
 And went hys wey / whan he had sayede
 Anoon this god / of slepe a-brayede 192
 Out of hys slepe / and gan to goon
 And dyd as he / had bede hym doon
 Tooke vp the dreynt / body sone
 And bare hyt forth / to Alchione 196
 Hys wife the quene / ther as she lay
 Rygh^t even a quarter / before day
 And stood rygh^t / at hys beddys fete
 And called hir / rygh^t as she hete 200
 By name and sayede / my swete wyfe
 A-wake / let be / your sorwful lyfe
 For in your sorwe / there lyth no rede
 For certes swete / I am but dede 204

Ye shul me never / oñ lyve y-se [leaf 132, back]
 But good swete hert / that ye
 Bury my body / for suche a tyde
 Ye mowe hyt fynde / the see besyde 208
 And fare-wel swete / my worldes blysse
 I pray god / youre sorwe lysse
 To lytel while / oure blysse lasteth
 With that hir eyeñ / vp she casteth 212
 And sawe noght / allas quod she for sorwe
 And deyede withiñ / the thridde morwe
 But what she sayede more / in that sorowe
 I may not telle yow / as nowe 216
 Hyt were to longe / for to dwelle
 My first matere / I wil yow telle
 Wherefore I have / tolde this thyng
 Of Alchione / and Seys the kyng 220
 For thus moche / dar I say welle
 I had be dolven / euerydelle
 And ded ryght thorgh / defaulte of slepe
 Yif I ne had redde / and take kepe 224
 Of this tale / next before
 And [I] wol¹ telle yow / wherefore [1 I wol. Bodl. 668, leaf 114]
 For I ne myght / for bote ne bale
 Slepe or I had / redde thys tale 228
 Of this dreynte / Seys the kyng
 And of the goddis / of slepyng
 Whañ I had redde / thys tale wel
 And ouer loket / euerydel 232
 Me thoght wonder / yf hit were so
 For I had neuer / herde speke or tho
 Of noo goddis / that koude make
 Meñ to slepe / ne for to wake 236
 For I ne knewe / never god but oon
 And in my game / I sayede anoon
 And yet me lyst / ryght euel to pley
 Rather then that / y shulde dey 240

Thorgh defaulte / of slepyng thus [leaf 133]
 I wolde yive thilke / Morpheus
 Or hys goddesse / dame Iuno
 Or somme wight^t ellis / I ne roght^t who 244
 To make me slepe / and have some reste
 I wil yive hym / the alder beste
 Yifte / that euer / he abode hys lyve
 And here onwarde / ryght^t now as blyve 248
 Yif he wol make / me slepe a lyte
 Of downe of pure / dowves white
 I wil yif hym / a feder bedde
 Rayed with golde / and ryght^t wel cledde 252
 In fyne blak satyñ / de owter mere
 And many a pelowe / and euery bere
 Of clothe of reynes / to slepe softe
 Hym thar not nede / to turnen ofte 256
 And I wol yive hym / al that fallys
 To a chambre / and al hys hallys
 I wol do peynte / with pure golde
 And tapite hem / ful many folde 260
 Of oo sute / this shal he haue
 Yf I wiste where / were hys cave
 Yf he kañ make / me slepe sone
 As did the goddesse / quene Alchione 264
 And thus / this ylke god Morpheus
 May wyne of me / moo fees thus
 Thañ euer he wanne / and to Iuno
 That ys hys goddesse / I shal soo do 268
 I trow that she / shal holde hir payede
 I hadde vnneth / that worde y-sayede
 Ryght^t thus I have / tolde hyt yow
 That sodeynly / I nyste how 272
 Suche a luste / anoon me tooke
 To slepe / that ryght^t vpon my booke
 Y fil aslepe / and therwith evene
 Me mette so ynly swete / a swevene 276

So wonderful / that neuer yitte
 Y trow no mañ / had the wytte
 To konne wel / my sweven rede [leaf 133, back]
 No not Ioseph / with-oute drede 280
 Of Egipte / ho that red so
 The kynges / metynge pharao
 No more thañ koude / the lest of vs
 Ne nat skarsly / Macrobeus 284
 He that wrote / al thavysyoñ
 That he mette / kyng Scipioñ
 The noble mañ / the affrikañ
 'suche marvayles / fortunēd than ^[¹ This line is in Stowe's hand. Bodl. 638, lf 115, bk, leaves a blank too.]
 I trowe a-rede / my dremes even 289
 Loo thus hyt was / thys was my sweven
ME thoght thus / that hyt was May
 And in the dawninge / I lay 292
 Me mette thus / in my bed al naked
 And loked forth / for I was waked
 With smale foules / a grete hepe
 That had Affrayed me / out of my slepe 296
 Thorgh noyse and swettenesse / of her songe
 And al me mette / they sate a-monge
 Vpon my chambre / roofe wyth-oute
 Vpon the tyles / ouer al a-boute 300
 And songe euerych / in hys wyse
 The moste solempne / seruise
 By noote / that euer mañ y trowe
 Had herde / for somme of hem songe lowe 304
 Somme high / and al of ooñ acorde
 To telle shortly / att oo worde
 Was neuer harde / so swete a steven
 But hyt had be / a thyng of heven 308
 So mery a sovne / so swete entewnes
 That certes / for the toвне of tewnes
 I nolde but I / had herde hem synge
 For al my chambre / gan to rynge 312

Thorgh syngynge / of her Armonye
 For Instrument / nor melodye
 Was nowhere herde / yet halfe so swete
 Nor of a-corde / halfe so mete 316
 For ther was noon of hem that feyned [leaf 134]
 To synge / for eche of hem hym peyned
 To fynde out / of mery crafty notys
 They ne spared / not her throtys 320
 And soothe to seyn / my chambre was
 Ful wel depeynted / and with glas
 Were al the wyndowes / wel y-glasyd
 Ful clere / and nat an hoole y-crasyd 324
 That to be-holde / hyt was grete Ioye
 For holy al / the story of Troye
 Was in the glasyng / y-wroght thus
 Of Ector / and of kynge Priamus 328
 Of Achilles / and of kynge lamedon
 And eke of Medea / and of Iason
 Of Paris / Eleyne / and of lavyne
 And alle the wallys / with colouris fyne 332
 Were peynted / bothe text and glose
 And al the Romaunce / of the Rose
 My wyndowes were / shette echoñ
 And throgħ the glas / the sonne shoñ 336
 Vpon my bed / with bryght bemys
 With many glade / gilde stremys
 And eke the welken / was so faire
 Blew bryght clere / was the ayre 340
 And ful attempre / for sothe hyt was
 For nother to colde / nor hoote yt was
 Ne in al the welkene / was a clowde
 And as I lay thus / wonder lowde 344
 Me thoght I herde / an hunte blowe
 Tassay hys horne / and for to knowe
 Whether hyt were clere / or horse of sovne
 And I herde goynge / bothe vp and dovne 348

Meñ / hors / houndes / and other thyng
 And al meñ speke / of huntynge
 How they wolde slee / the hert with strengthe
 And how the hert / had vpon lengthe 352
 So moche embosed / y not now what [leaf 134, back]
 Anoon ryght / whā I herde that
 How that they wolde / oñ huntynge goon
 I was ryght glad / and vp anoon 356
 Tooke my hors / and forthe I went
 Out of my chambre / I never stent
 Til I come / to the felde withoute
 Ther ouertoke y / a grete route 360
 Of huntis / and eke of foresterys
 With ma[n]y¹ Relays / and lymerys [1 many. Bodl. 638]
 And hyed hem / to the forest faste
 And with hem / so at the laste 364
 I asked oon / ladde A lymere
 Say felowe whoo / shal hunte here
 Quod I / and he answered ageyn
 Syr / themperour / Octouyen 368
 Quod he / and ys here fast by
 A goddys halfe / in goode tyme quod I
 Go we faste / and gañ to ryde
 Whā we came to the forest syde 372
 Euery mañ / didde ryght anoon
 As to huntynge / fille to doon
 The mayster hunte / anoon fote hote
 With a grete horne / blewe thre mote 376
 At the vncoupylynge / of hys houndys
 Withynne a while / the herte founde ys
 I-halowed / and rechased faste
 Longe tyme and so / at the laste 380
 This hert Rused / and staale away
 Fro alle the houndes / a prevy way
 The houndes had / ouershette hym alle
 And were vpon / a defaulte y-falle 384

Therwyth the hunte / wonder faste
 Blewe a forleygne / at the laste
 I was go walked / fro my tree
 And as I went / ther came by mee 388
 A whelp that ffavned me / as I stoode [leaf 135]
 That hadde y-folowed / and koude no goode
 Hyt come and crepte / to me as lowe
 Ryght^t as hyt had / me y-knowe 392
 Hylde doun hys hede / and ioyned hys erys
 And leyde al smothe / doun hys herys
 I wolde haue kaught^t hyt / and anoon
 Hyt fled / and was fro me goon 396
 And I hym folwed / and hyt forthe went
 Dovne by a floury / grene went
 Ful thikke of gras / ful softe and swete
 With flourys fele / faire vnder fete 400
 And litel vsed / hyt semed thus
 For both Flora / and Zephirus
 They two that make / floures growe
 Had made her dwellynge / ther I trowe 404
 For hit was / on to be-holde
 As thogh therthe / envye wolde
 To be gayer / than the heven
 To have moo floures / swche seven 408
 As in the walkene / sterris bee
 Hyt had forgete / the pouertee
 That wynter thorgh / hys colde morwes
 Had made hyt suffre / and his sorwes 412
 Ah was for-geten / and that was sene
 For al the woode / was waxen grene
 Swetnesse of dewe / had made hyt waxe
 Hyt ys no nede / eke for to axe 416
 Where there were many / grene greves
 Or thikke of trees / so ful of leves
 And euery tree / stoode by hym selve
 Fro other wel / tene fete / fro other twelve 420

So grete trees / so huge of streng[t]he
 Or fourty fifty / fedme lengthe
 Clene withoute bowgh / or stikke
 With croppes bothe / and eke as thikke 424
 They were nat / an ynche a sonder
 That hit was shadewe / ouer al vnder
 And many an herte / and many an hynde
 Was both before me / and be-hynde 428
 Of fovnes / sowres / bukkes / does [leaf 135, back]
 Was ful the woode / and many Roes
 And many sqwirels / that sete
 Ful high / vpon the trees and ete 432
 And in hir maner / made festys
 Shortly hyt was / so ful of bestys
 That thogh Argus / the noble covnter
 Sete to rekene / in hys counter 436
 And rekene / with his figuris ten
 For by tho figuris / mowe al ken
 Yf they be crafty rekene / and novmbre
 And tel / of euery thinge the noumbre 440
 Yet shulde he fayle / to rekene evene
 The wondres me mette / in my swevene
 But forth they Romed / ryght wonder faste
 Dovne the woode / so at the laste 444
 I was war / of a man in blak [nota in margin.]
 That sete / and had turned his bak
 To an ooke / an huge tree
 lorde thogh[t]¹ I / who may that be [¹ thought. Bodl. 638] 448
 What ayleth hym / to sitten here
 Anoon ryght / I went nere
 Than founde I sitte / even vpryght
 A wonder wel / farynge knyght 452
 By the maner / me thoght soo
 Of good mochel / and ryght yonge therto
 Of the age / of foure and twenty² yere [² foure & twenty. Bodl. 638, leaf 119]
 Vpon hys berde / but lytel here 456

And he was / clothed al in blake
 I stalked even / vnto hys bake
 And there I stoode / as stille as ought
 That soth to saye / he sawe me nought 460
 For why he henge / hys hede adovne
 And with a dedely / sorwful sovne
 He made of Ryme / .x. vers or twelfe
 Of a compleynt / to hym selfe 464
 The moste pitee / the moste rowthe
 That euer I herde / for by my trowthe [leaf 136]
 Hit was gret wonder that nature
 Myght suffre / any creature 468
 To haue suche sorwe / and be not ded
 Ful petuose pale / and no-thynge red
 He sayed a lay / a maner songe
 Withoute noote / withoute songe 472
 And was thys / for ful wel I kañ
 Reherse hyt ryght / thus hyt begañ
 ¶ I have of sorwe / so grete wone [The Knight's Lay]
 That Ioy gete I / never none 476
 Now that I see / my lady bryght
 Which I have loved / with al my myght
 Is fro me ded / and ys a-goon
 [. no gap in the MS.¹] [¹ Bodl. 638, leaf 119, back,
 has no gap either]
 ¶ Allas dethe / what ayleth the
 That thou noldest / haue taken me
 Whañ thou toke / my lady swete
 That was so faire / so freshe so fre 484
 So goode that men / may wel se
 Of al goodenesse / she had no mete [End of the Lay]
 ¶ Whañ he had made thus / his complaynt
 Hys sorwful hert / gañ faste faynt 488
 And his spiritis / wexeñ dede
 The bloode was fled / for pure drede
 Dovne to hys hert / to make hym warme
 For wel hyt feled / the hert had harme 492

To wete eke why / hyt was a-drad
 By kynde / and for to make hyt glad
 For hit ys membre / principal
 Of the body / and that made al 496
 Hys hewe chaunge / and wexe grene
 And pale / for ther noo bloode ys sene
 In no maner / hym of hys
 Anoon therwith / whaⁿ y sawgh this 500
 He ferde thus euel / there he sete
 I went and stooode / ryght^t at his fete
 And grette hym / but he spake noght^t
 But argued / with his ovne thoght^t 504
 And in hys wytte / disputed faste [leaf 136, back]
 Why and how / hys lyfe myght^t laste
 Hym thought^t hys sorwes / were so smerte
 And lay so colde / vpon hys herte 508
 So throg^h hys sorwes / and hevy thoght^t
 Made hym / that he herde me noght^t
 For he had wel nygh^h / loste hys mynde
 Thogh^h .Pan. that menⁿ / clepe the god of kynde 512
 Were for hys sorwes / neuer so wrothe
 ¶ But at the last / to sayn ryght^t sothe
 He was was war of me / how y stooode
 Before hym / and did of mynⁿ hoode 516
 And had ygret hym / as I best koude
 Debonayrly / and no thyng lowde
 He sayde I prey the / be not wrothe
 I herde the not / to seyn the sothe 520
 Ne I sawgh the not / syr trewly
 A good sire / no fors quod y
 I am ryght^t sory / yif I have oughte
 Destroubled yow / out of your thoughte 524
 For-yive me / yif I have mys-take
 Yis thamendys / is lygh^t to make
 Quod he / for ther lyeth noon ther-to
 There ys no thyng / myssayde nor do 528

Loo / how goodely spake thys knyghte
 As hit had be / a-nother wyghte
 He made hyt nouthur / towgh̃ ne queynte
 And I sawe that / and gañ me¹ aqueynt [¹ e later] 532
 With̃ hym / and fonde hym so trefable
 Ryght^t wonder skylful / and resonable
 As me thoght^t / for al hys bale
 A-nooñ ryght^t / I gañ fynde a tale 536
 To hym / to loke wher I myght^t oughte
 Haue more knowynge / of hys thoughte
 Sir quod I / this game is dooñ
 I holde that this / hert be gooñ 540
 These huntys / konne hym nowher see
 Y do no fors / therof quod he
 My thought^t ys there-oñ / neuer a dele
 Be oure lorde quod I / y trow yow wele leaf 137]
 Ryght^t so me thenketh̃ / by youre chere
 But sir oo thyng / wol ye here
 Me thynketh̃ in grete sorowe / I yow see
 But certys sir / yif that yee 548
 Wolde ought^t discure me / youre woo
 I wolde as wys / god helpe me soo
 Amende hyt / yif I kañ or may
 Ye mowe preve hyt / be assay 552
 For by my trouthe / to make yow hool
 I wol do alle / my power hool
 And telleth me / of your sorwes smerte
 Paraventure hyt may / ease youre herte 556
 That semeth̃ ful seke / vnder your syde
 With that he loked / oñ me asyde
 As who sayth̃ nay / that wol not be
 Graunt mercy / goode frende quod he 560
 I thanke the / that thow woldest soo
 But hyt may never / the rather be doo
 No mañ may / my sorwe glade
 That maketh̃ my hewe / to fal and fade 564

And hath myn vnderstondynge / lorne
 That me ys woo / that I was borne
 May noght make / my sorwes slyde
 Nought al the remedyes / of Ovyde 568
 Ne Orpheus / god of melodye
 Ne Dedalus / with his playes slye
 Ne hele me may / noo phisicien
 Noght ypocras / ne Galyen 572
 Me ys woo that I lyve / oures twelve
 But whoo so wol / assay hym selve
 Whether his hert / kan haue pitee
 Of any sorwe / lat hym see me 576
 Y wrechch that deth / hath made al naked
 Of al blysse / that ever was maked
 Y worthe worste / of al wyghtys
 That hate my dayes / and my nyghtys 580
 My lyfe my lustes / be me loothe
 For al welfare / and I be wroothe
 The pure deth / ys so ful my foo
 That I wolde deye / hyt wolde not soo 584
 For whan I folwe hyt / hit wol flee
 I wolde haue hym / hyt nyl nat me
 This ys my peyne / wythoute rede
 Alway deyng / and be not dede 588
 That Thesiphus / that lyeth in helle
 May not of more / sorwe telle
 And who so wiste alle / be my trouthe
 My sorwe / but he had rowthe 592
 And pitee / of my sorwes smerte
 That man hath / a fendely herte
 For who so seeth me / firste on morwe
 May seyn / he hath mette with sorwe 596
 For y am sorwe / and sorwe ys y
 ¶ Allas / and I wol tel the why
 My sorowe ys turned / to pleynynge
 And al my lawghtre / to wepyng 600

[leaf 137, back]

My glade thoghtys / to hevynesse
 In travayle / ys myñ ydelnesse
 And eke my reste / my wele is woo
 My goode ys harme / and euer moo 604
 In wrathe ys turned / my pleyng
 And my delyte / in-to sorwyng
 Myñ hele ys turned / in-to sekeenesse
 In drede ys al / my sykernesse 608
 To derke ys turned / al my lyghte
 My wytte ys foly / my day ys nyghte
 My love ys hate / my slepe wakyng
 My merthe and meles / ys fastyng 612
 My countenaunce / ys nycete
 And al abawed / where so I be
 My pees / in pledyng and in werre
 Allas how myght I / fare werre 616
 My boldenesse / ys turned to shame
 For fals Fortune / hath pleyde a game
 Atte the chesse with me / allas the while [nota in margin]
 The trayteresse fals / and ful of gyle [leaf 138]
 That al behoteth / and no thyng halte
 She gethe vpryght / and yet she is halte
 That baggeth foule / and loketh faire
 The dispitouse / debonaire 624
 That skorneth many / a creature
 An ydole / of fals portrayture
 Ys she / for she wol soñe variē
 She is the Mowstres / hed y-wriē 628
 As fylthe / over y-strawed with flouris
 Hir moste worshippe / and hir flourys
 To lyen / for that ys hyr nature
 With-oute feythe / lawe or mesure 632
 She ys fals / and euer lawghyng
 With oñe yghe / and that other wepyng
 That ys broght vp / she sette al doun
 I lykne hyr / to the Scorioun 636

That ys a fals / flateyrynge beste
 For with his hede / he maketh feste
 But al amyddde / hys Flaterynge
 With hys tayle / hyt wol styngge 640
 And envenyme / and so wol she
 She ys / thenvyouse charite
 That ys ay fals / and semeth wele
 So turneth she / hyr fals whele 644
 Aboute / for hyt ys no thyng stable
 Now by the fire / now at table
 For many oon / hath thus she yblent
 She ys pley / of enchauntement 648
 That semeth oon / and ys not soo
 The fals thefe / what hath she doo
 Trowest thou by oure lorde / I wol the sey [nota in margin]
 At the chesse with me / she gañ to pley 652
 With hir fals draughtes / dyvers
 She staaie on me / and toke my fers
 And whan I sawgh / my fers away
 Allas I kouthe / no lenger play 656
 ¶ But seyde fare-wel / swete y-wys [leaf 138, back]
 And fare-wel al / that ever ther ys
 Ther-with fortune / seyde chek here
 And mate / in the myd poynt / of the chekkere 660
 With a povne / errante allas
 Ful craftier / to pley she was
 Than Athalus / that made the game
 First of the chesse / so was hys name 664
 But god wolde I had / oones or twyes
 Y-konde and knowe / the Ieupardyes
 That kowde the Greke / Pictagoras
 I shulde haue pleyde / the bet at ches 668
 ¶ And kept my fers / the bet ther-by
 And thoght wherto / for trewly
 I holde that wysshe / nat worthe A stree
 Hyt had be neuer / the bet for me 672

For fortune kañ / so many a wyle
 Ther be but fewe / kañ hir begile
 And eke she ys / the lasse to blame
 My selfe I wolde / haue do the same 676
 Before god / as I be as she
 She oght^t the more / excused be
 For this I say yet / more ther-to
 Had I be god / and myghte haue do 680
 My wille whañ she / my fers kaught^t
 I wolde have drawe / the same draught^t
 For also wys / god yive me reste
 I dar wel swere / he tooke the beste 684
 But throgħ that draught^t / I haue lorne
 My blysse allas / that I was borne
 For euermore / y trowe trewly
 For al my wille / my luste holly 688
 Ys turned / but yet what to doone
 Be oure lorde / hyt ys to deye soone
 For no thyng / I leve hyt noght^t
 But lyve and deye / ryght^t in this thoght^t 692
 For there nys planete / in firmament
 Ne in ayre / ne in erthe / noon element
 That they ne yive me / a yifte echoñ [leaf 139]
 Of wepyng / whañ I am alloñ 696
 For whañ that I / avise me wel
 And be-thenke me / euery del
 How that ther lyeth / in rekenynge
 Inne my sorwe / for no thyng 700
 And how ther levyth / noe gladnesse
 May glad me / of my distresse
 And how I haue / loste suffisance
 And ther-to I haue / no plesance 704
 Thañ may I say / I haue ryght^t noght^t
 And whañ al this / falleth in my thoght^t
 Allas thañ am I / ouercome
 For that ys doon / ys not to come 708

I haue more sorowe / thañ Tantale
 And whañ I herde / hym tel thys tale
 This pitously / as I yow telle
 Vnnethe myght^t y / lenger duelle 712
 Hyt dyd myñ hert / so moche woo
 A goode sir quod I / say not soo
 Haue somme pitee / oñ your nature
 That formed yow / to creature 716
 Remembre yow / of Socrates
 For he ne counted / nat thre strees
 Of noght^t that fortune / koude doo
 No quod he / I kañ not soo 720
 Why so good syr / yis *parde* quod y
 Ne noght^t soo / for trewly
 Thogh^h ye had loste / the ferses twelve
 And ye for sorwe / mordred your selve 724
 Ye sholde be dampned / in this cas
 By as goode ryght^t / as Medea was
 That slowgh^h hir childreñ / for Iason
 And Phyllis also / for Demophoñ 728
 Henge hir selfe / so weylaway.
 For he had broke / his terme day
 To come to hir / another rage
 Had Dydo the quene / eke of Cartage 732
 That slough^h hir selfe / for Eneas
 Was fals / which^h a foole she was [leaf 139, back]
 And Ecquo died / for Narcisus
 Nolde nat love hir / and ryght^t thus 736
 Hath^h many another / foly dooñ
 And for Dalida / died Sampsoñ
 That slough^h hym-selfe / with a pilere
 But ther is no mañ / a lyve here 740
 Wolde for a fers / make this woo
 Why so quod he / hyt ys nat soo
 Thou woste ful lytel / what thou menyst
 I haue loste more / thañ thow wenyst 744

loo / she that may be quod y
Good sir telle me / al hooly
In what wyse / how / why / and wherfore
That ye have thus / youre blysse lore 748
Blythely quod he / come sytte adooñ
I telle hyt the / vp a condicioñ
That thou shalt / hooly with al thy wytte
Doo thyñ entent to herkene hitte 752
Yis syr / swere thy trouthe ther-to
Gladly / do thanne / holde here lo
I shal ryght blythely / so god me save
Hooly / with al the witte I have 756
Here yow / as wel as I kañ
A goddys halfe quod he / and begañ
Syr quod he / sith firste I kouthe
Haue any maner wytte / fro youthe 760
Or kyndely / vnderstondynge
To comprehende / in any thyng
What love was / in myñ ovne wytte
Dredeles / I haue ever yitte 764
Be tributarye / and yive rente
To love hooly / with goode entente
And throgħ plesaunce / become his thralle
With good wille / body hert and alle 768
Al this I putte / in his servage
As to my lorde / and did homage
And ful devoutely / I prayed hym to [leaf 140]
he shulde besette / myñ hert so 772
That hyt plesance / to hym were
And worshippe / to my lady dere
And this was longe / and many a yere
Or that myñ herte / was set owhere 776
That I did thus / and nyste why
I trowe hit came / me kyndely
Peraventure / I was therto moste able
as a white walle / or a table 780

For hit ys redy / to cachche and take
 Al that meñ wil / theryñ make
 Whethir so meñ / wil portrey or peynt
 Be the werkes / never so queynt 784
 ¶ And thilke tyme / I ferde ryght^t so
 I was able / to have lerned tho
 And to haue kende / as wel or better
 Paraunter / other Arte or letre 788
 But for love came firste / in my thoght^t
 Therefore / I forgate hyt noght^t
 I ches love / to my first crafte
 Therefore hit ys / with me lafte 792
 For why I toke hyt / of so yonge age
 That malyce / had my corage
 Nat that tyme turned / to no thyng
 Thorgh to mochel / knowlachynge 796
 For that tyme / yowthe my maistresse
 Gouerned me / in ydelnesse
 For hyt was / in my first youthe
 And thoo ful lytel / goode y couthe 800
 For al my werkes / were flyttyng
 That tyme / and al my thoght^t varyinge
 Al were to me / ylyche goode
 That I knewe thoo / but thus hit stooode 804
 ¶ Hit happed that I came / oñ a day
 In-to a place / ther that I say
 Trewly the fayrest / companye
 Off Ladyes / that euere mañ with ye [leaf 140, back]
 Had seen to-gedres in oo place
 Shal I clepe hyt / happe other grace
 That broght me there / nay but Fortune
 That ys to lyen / ful comvne 812
 The fals trayteresse / peruers [nota in margin]
 God wolde I koude / clepe hir wers
 For now she worcheth / me ful woo
 And I wol tel sone / why soo 816

¶ Amonge these ladyes / thus echoñ
 Soth to seyn / y sawgh oon
 That was lyke / noon of the Route
 For I dar swere / withoute doute 820
 That as the somerys / sonne bryghte
 Ys fairer clerer / and hath more lyghte
 Than any other / planete in hevene
 The moone / or the sterres sevene 824
 For al the worlde / so had she
 Surmountede / hem / al of beaute
 Of maner / and of comelynesse
 Of stature / and of so wel sette gladnesse 828
 Of godelyhede / and so wel be-sey
 Shortly / what shal y sey
 By god / and by halwes twelve
 Hyt was my swete / ryght al hir selve 832
 She had so stedfaste / countenaunce
 So noble porte / and meynテナunce
 And love that had wel / herd my boone
 Had espyed me / thus soone 836
 That she ful sone / in my thoght
 As helpe me god / so was y kaught
 So sodenly / that I ne toke
 No maner counseyl / but at hir loke 840
 But at myñ hest / for why hir eyeñ
 So gladly I trow / myñ hert seyeñ
 That purely tho / myñ ovne thoght
 Seyde hit were beter / serve hir for noght 844
 Than with a-nother / to be wel [leaf 141]
 And hyt was sothe / for eueredel
 I wil a-noon / ryght telle the why
 I sawgh hyr daunce / so comelely 848
 Carole and synge / so swetly
 Lawghe and pley / so womanly
 And loke / so debonairly
 So goodely speke / and so frendly 852

That certes y trowe / that euer-more
 Nas seyne / so a blysfyl a tresore
 For euery heer / oñ hir hede
 Soth to seyne / hyt was not rede 856
 Ne nouthur yelowē ne broune hyt nas
 Me thoght^t most lyke / hyt was
 ¶ And which eyē / my lady hadde
 Debonair goode / glade and sadde 860
 Symple of goode / mochel noght^t to wyde
 Ther-to hir looke / nas not a-syde
 Ne ouertwert / but besette so wele
 Hyt drewh and tooke vp / euerydele 864
 Al that oñ hir / gañ be-holde
 Hir eyē semed / anoon she wolde
 Have mercy / foolys wenden soo
 But hyt was never / the rather doo 868
 Hyt nas / no countrefeted thyngē
 Hyt was hir ovne / pure lokyngē
 That the goddesse / dame nature
 Had made hem opene / by mesure 872
 And cloos / for were she neuer so glad
 Hyr lokyngē was not / foly sprad
 Ne wildely / thogh that she pleyde
 But euer me thoght^t / hir eyē seyde 876
 Be god my wrathe / ys al for-yive
 Therwith hir lyste / so wel to lyve
 That dulnesse was / of hir a-drad
 She nas to sobre / ne to glad 880
 In alle thynges / more mesure
 Had neuer I trow / creature
 But many oon / with hire loke she hert [leaf 141, back]
 And that sate hyr / ful lytel at hert 884
 For she knowe no-tyngē / of her thoght^t
¹ but whither she knew / or knew it nowght
 Algate she ne rought^t / of hem a stree
 To gete hyr love / noo nerre was he 888

[1 This line is in
 Stowe's hand.
 Bodl. 638 has
 a blank too.]

That woned at home / that he in ynde
 The formest was / alway behynde
 But good folke ouer al other
 She loved as mañ / may do hys brother 892
 Of whiche loue / she was wounder large
 In skilful placis / that bere charge
 But which a visage / had she ther-too
 Allas myñ hert / ys wonder woo 896
 That I ne kañ / discryveñ hyt
 Me lakketh both / englyssh and wit
 For to vn-do hyt / at the fulle
 And eke my spiritis / be so dulle 900
 So grete a thyng / for to deuyse
 I haue no witte / that kañ suffise
 To compr̄hende / hir beaute
 But thus moche dar I sayñ / that she 904
 Was white¹ rody fressh / and lyvely hewed [¹ *blanche in margin,*
in Stowe's hand]
 And euery day / hir beaute newed
 And negh hir face / was alder best
 For certys nature / had swich lest 908
 To make that faire / that trewly she
 Was hir chefe patrone / of beaute
 And chefe ensample / of al hir werke
 And moūstre / for be hyt neuer so derke 912
 Me thynkyth / I se hir euer moo
 And yet more over / thogh al thoo
 That ever levede / were now a lyve
 Ne sholde ha founde / to diskryve 916
 Yn al hir face / a wikked sygne
 For hit was sad / symple and benygne
 And which a goodely / softe speche
 Had that swete / my lyves leche 920
 So frendely / and so wel y-grounded [leaf 142]
 Vp al resoun / so wel y-founded
 And so trefable / to al goode
 That I dar swere wel / by the Roode 924

Of eloquence / was neuer founde
 So swete a sownynge / facounde
 Ne trewer tonged / ne skorned lasse
 Ne bet koude hele / that by the masse 928
 I durste swere / thogh the Pape hit songe
 That ther was neuer yet / throgħ hir tonge
 Mañ ne womañ / gretely harmed
 As for hit was / al harme hyd 932
 Ne lasse flaterynge / in hir word
 That purely / hir symple recorde
 Was founde as trewe / as any bonde
 Or trouthe / of any mannys honde 936
 Ne chyde she koude / neuer a dele
 That knoweth al the worlde / ful wele
 But swiche a fairenesse / of a nekke
 Had that swete / that boon nor brekke 940
 Nas ther non seen that mys satte
 Hyt was white ¹ smothe / streght and pure flatte [¹ blanche in
 Wyth-outen hole / or canel boon *margin, by*
 As be semyng / had she noon 944 *Stowe*]
 Hyr throte / as I haue now memoyre
 Semed a rounde toure / of yvoyre
 Of goode gretenesse / and noght to grete
 ¶ And goode faire White² / she hete [² blanche in margin, by Stowe]
 That was my lady Name / ryghte
 She was bothe / faire and bryghthe
 She had not / hir name wronge
 Ryght faire shuldres / and body longe 952
 She / had / and armes / euery lyth
 Fattyssh flesschy / not grete therwith
 Ryght white handes / and nayles rede
 Rounde brestes / and of good brede 956
 Hyr hippes were / a streight flat bakke
 I knewe on hir / noon other lakke.
 That al hir lymmes / nere pure sywynge [leaf 142, back]
 In as fferre / as I had knowynge 960

Therto she koude / so wel pley
 Whaṇ that hir lyst / that I dar sey
 That she was lyke / to torche bryght
 That euery maṇ / may take of lyght 964
 Ynogḥ / and hyt hathe / neuer the lesse
 Of maner / and of comlynesse
 Ryght so ferde / my lady dere
 For euery wight / of hir manere 968
 Myght cachche ynogḥ / yif that he wolde
 Yif he had Eyeṇ / hir to be-holde
 For I dar swere wel / yif that she
 Had amonge / ten thousande be 972
 She wolde haue be / at the lest
 A chefe meroure / of al the fest
 Thogḥ they had stonde / in a Rowe
 To mennys Eyen / koude haue knowe 976
 For wher so meṇ had / pleyed or wakyd
 Me thoght the felysshyppe / as naked
 Withouteṇ hir / that sawgḥ I oones
 As a corowne / withoute stones 980
 Trewly she was / to myṇ Eye
 The soleyne Fenix / of Arabye
 For ther levyth / nevyr but ooṇ
 Ne swich as she / ne knowe I nooṇ 984
 To speke of godenesse / trewly she
 Had as moche / debonairyete
 As euer had Hester / in the bible
 And more yif more / were possyble 988
 And sothe to seyṇ / therwyth-alles
 She had a wytte / so generalle
 So hoole enclyned / to alle goode
 That al hir wytte was set / by the Rode 992
 Withoute malyce / vpoṇ gladnesse
 And ther-to I sawgḥ / neuer yet a lesse
 Harmeful thaṇ she was / in doynge
 I sey nat that she / ne had knowynge 996

What harme was / or elles she	
Had koude ¹ no good / so thenketh me	[¹ or konde] [leaf 143]
And trewly / for to speke of trouthe	
But she had hadde / hyt hadde be routhe	1000
Therof she had / so moche hyr dele	
And I dar seyñ / and swere hyt wele	
That trouthe hym-selfe / ouer al and alle	
Had chose hys maner / principalle	1004
In hir that was / his restynge place	
Ther-to she hadde / the moste grace	
To haue stedefaste / perseueraunce	
And Esy atemptry / gouernaunce	1008
That euer I knewe / or wyste yitte	
So pure suffraunt / was hir wytte	
And reson gladly / she vnderstoode	
Hyt folowed wel / she koude goode	1012
She vsed gladly / to do wel	
These were hir maners / euerydel	
Therwith she loved / so wel ryght	
She wronge do wolde / to no wyght	1016
No wyght myght doo / hir noo shame	
She loved so wel / hir ovne name	
Hyr lust to holde / no wyght in honde	
Ne be thou siker / she wolde not fonde	1020
To holde no wyght / in balaunce	
By halfe worde / ne by countenaunce	
But yif meñ wolde / vpon hir lye	
Ne sende meñ / in-to walakye	1024
To pruyse / and in-to Tartarye	
To Alysaundre / ne in-to Turkye	
And byd hym faste / anoon that he	
Goo hoodeles / in-to the drye se	1028
And come home / by the Carrenare	
And sey sir / be now ryght ware	
That I may of yow / here seyñ	
Worshyppe / or that ye come ageyñ	1032

She ne vsed / no suche knakkes smale
 But wherfore / that y tel my tale
 Ryght^t on̄ thys same / as I haue seyde
 Was hooly al / my love leyde 1036
 For certes she was / that swete wife¹ [leaf 143, back]
 My suffisaunce / my luste my lyfe¹ [¹ ? wise, lyse, with a late
cross for f]
 Myñ happe myñ hele / and al my blysse
 My worldys welfare / and my goddesse 1040
 And I hooly hires / and euerydel
 ¶ By oure lord² / quod I / y trowe yow wel [2 lord later]
 Hardely your love / was wel besette
 I not how ye myght^t / haue doo bette 1044
 Bette ne no wyght^t / so wele quod he
 Y trowe hyt wel sir / quod I parde
 Nay leve hyt wel / sire so do I
 I leve yow wel / that trewly 1048
 Yow thoghte that she / was the best
 And to be-holde / the alderfayrest
 Who soo had loked hir / with your Eyeñ
 With myñ nay / al that hir seyeñ 1052
 Seyde and swore / hyt was soo
 And thogh̄ they ne hadde / I wolde thoo
 Haue loved best / my lady free
 Thogh̄ I had hadde / al the beaute 1056
 Thatt³ euer had / Alcipyades [³ altered]
 And al the strengthe / of Ercules
 And therto had / the worthynesse
 Of Alysaunder / and al the rychesse 1060
 That euer was / in Babyloyne
 In Cartage / or in Macedoyne
 Or in Rome / or in Nynyve
 And to also / as hardy be 1064
 As was Ector / so haue I ioye
 That Achilles / slough̄ at Troye
 And ther-fore was he / slayñ alsoo
 In a temple / for bothe twoo 1068

Were slayne / he and Antylegyus
 And so seyth / dares frygius
 For love / of Polixena
 Or ben as wis / as Mynerva [leaf 144] 1072
 I wolde euer / withoute drede
 Have loved hir / for I most nede
 Nede / nay trewly / I gabbe nowe
 Noght nede / and I wol telle howe 1076
 For of goode wille myn hert hyt wolde [nota in margin]
 And eke to love hir / I was holde
 As for the fairest / and the beste
 She was as good / so haue I reste 1080
 As euer was / Penolopee of Grece
 Or as the noble wife / lucrece
 That was the best / he telleth thus
 The Romaine / Tytus lyuyus 1084
 She was as good / and no thyng lyke
 Thogh hir stories / be Autentyke
 Algate she was / as trewe as she
 But wherfore / that I telle the 1088
 Whan I firste / my lady Say
 I was ryght yonge / sothe to say
 And ful grete nede / I hadde to lerne
 Whan my herte / wolde yerne 1092
 To love / hyt was a grete empyse
 But as my wytte / koude beste suffise
 After my yonge / childely wytte
 Withoute drede / I be-sette hytte 1096
 To love hir / in my best wyse
 To do hir worshippe / and the seruise
 That I koude thoo / be my trouthe
 Withoute ffeynyng / outhur slouthe 1100
 For wonder feyne / I wolde hir se
 So mochel / hyt amended me
 That whan I sawgh hir / first a morwe
 I was warshed / of al my sorwe 1104

Of al day after / til hyt were eve
 Me thoght no-thing / myghte me greve
 Were my sorwes / neuer so smerte [leaf 144, back]
 And yet she sytte / so myn herte 1108
 That by my trouthe / y nolde noght
 For al thys worlde / oute of my thoght
 Leve my lady / noo trewly
 Now by my trouthe / sir quod I 1112
 Me thynketh ye haue / suche a chaunce
 As shryfte / wythoute repentaunce
 Repentaunce / nay Fy quod he
 Shulde y now / repente me 1116
 To love / nay certis than were I wel
 Wers than was / Achetofel
 Or Anthenor / so haue I ioye
 The traytore that / betraysed Troye 1120
 Or the fals / Genelloñ
 He that purchased / the treson
 Of Rowlande / and of Olyvere
 Nay while I am / a lyve here 1124
 I nyl foryete hir / neuer moo
 Now good syr / quod I thoo
 Ye han wel tolde me / here before
 Hyt ys no nede / to reherse more 1128
 How ye sawgh hir firste / and where
 But wolde ye tel me / the manere
 To hire / which was your first speche
 Therof I wolde / yow be-seche 1132
 And how she knewe / first your thoght
 Whether ye loued hir / or noght
 And telleth me eke / what ye haue lore
 I herde yow telle / herebefore 1136
 Yee / he seyde / thow nost what thou menyst
 I haue lost more / than thou wenyst
 What losse ys that / quod I thoo
 Nyl she not love yow / ys hyt soo 1140

Or haue ye oght / doon amys
 That she hathe lefte yow / ys hyt this
 For goddys love / telle me alle [leaf 145]
 Be-fore god quod he / and I shalle 1144
 I say ryght / as I haue seyde
 On hir was al / my love leyde
 And yet she nyste hyt nat / neuer a del
 Noght longe tyme / leve hyt wel 1148
 For be ryght siker / I durste noght
 For al this worlde / tel hir my thoght
 Ne I wolde haue wraththed hir / trewly
 For wostow why / she was lady 1152
 Of the body / she had the hert
 And who hath that / may not astert
 But for to kepe me / so fro ydelnesse
 Trewly I did / my besynesse 1156
 To make songes / as I best koude
 And ofte tyme / I songe hem loude
 And made songes / this a grete dele
 Al thogh I koude not / make so wele 1160
 Songes the knowe / the arte alle
 As koude lamekys / sone Tuballe
 That founde out firste / the art of songe
 For as hys brothres / hamers ronge 1164
 Vpon hys Anuelet / vp and doon
 Therof he tooke / the first soon
 But Grekes seyn / Pictagoras
 That he the first / fynder was 1168
 Of the arte / Aurora telleth soo
 But therof no fors / of hem twoo
 Algatis songes / thus I made
 Of my felynge / myn hert to glade 1172
 And loo / thus was alther first
 I not wher hyt / were the first
 ¶ lorde hyt maketh / myn hert lyght
 Whan I thenke / on that swete wyght 1176

That is so semely / oñ to see
 And wisshe to god / hit myght^t so bee
 That she wolde holde me / for hir knyght^t
 My lady that is / so faire and bryght^t 1180
 Now have I tolde / the sothe to say [leaf 145, back[?]
 My first songe / vpon a day
 I be-thoght^t me / what woo
 And sorwe that I / suffred thoo 1184
 For hir and yet / she wyst hyt noght^t
 Ne tel hir durst I / nat my thoght^t
 Allas thoght^t I / y kañ no rede
 And but I telle hir / I aṁ but dede 1188
 And yif I telle hyr / to sey ryght^t sothe
 I am a-dred / she wol be wrothe
 Allas what shal I / thanne doo
 In this debate / I was so woo 1192
 Me thoght^t myñ hert / brast a tweyne
 So at the last / sothe to sayne
 I be-thoght^t me / that nature
 Ne formed neuer in creature 1196
 So moche beaute / trewly
 And bounte / wyth^h-oute mercy
 In hope of that / my tale I tolde
 With^h sorwe / as that I neuer sholde 1200
 For nedys / and Mawgree my hede
 I most haue tolde hir / or be dede
 I not wel how / that I beganne
 Ful evel reherse hyt / I kañ 1204
 And eke as helpe me / god with^h-alle
 I trowe hyt was / in the dismalle
 That was the .x. woundes of Egipte
 For many a worde / I ouer skipte 1208
 In my tale / for pure Fere
 Lest my wordys / mys sette were
 With^h sorweful herte / and woundes dede
 Softe and quakyng / for pure drede 1212

And shame / and styntyng in my tale
 For ferde / and myñ hewe al pale
 Ful ofte I wexe / bothe pale and rede
 Bowynge to hir / I heng the hede 1216
 I durste nat ones / loke hir oñ
 For witte maner / and al was goon [leaf 146]
 I seyde mercy / and no more
 Hyt nas no game / hyt sate me sore 1220
 So at the laste / sothe to seyne
 Whañ that myñ hert / was come ageyne
 To telle shortely / at my speche
 With hool herte / I gañ hir beseche 1224
 That she wolde be / my lady swete
 And swore and gañ / hir hertely hete
 Ever' to be stedfast / and trewe
 And love hir alwey / fresshly newe 1228
 And never other / lady have
 And al hir worshippē / for to save
 As I best koude / I swore hir this
 For youres is alle / that euer ther ys 1232
 For euermore / myñ herte swete
 And neuer to false yow / but I mete
 I nyl as wysse / god helpe me soo
 And whañ I had / my tale y-doo 1236
 God wote she acounted / nat a stree
 Of al my tale / so thoght me
 To telle shortly / ryght as hyt ys
 Trewly hir' answere / hyt was this 1240
 I kañ not now wel / counterfete
 Hyr wordys / but this was the grete
 Of hir answere / she sayde nay
 Alle outerly / alas that day 1244.
 The sorowe I suffred / and the woo
 That trewly Cassandra / that soo
 Bewayled / the destruccioñ
 Of Troy / and of Ilyoñ 1248

Had neuer swich sorwe / as I thoo
 I durst no more / say ther-too
 For pure fere / but stale away
 And thus I lyved / ful many a day 1252
 That trewly / I hadde no nede
 Ferther / thañ my beddes hede [leaf 146, back]
 Never a day / to seche sorwe
 I fonde hyt redy / euery morwe 1256
 For why / I loved hyr in no gere
 ¶ So hit befel / another yere
 I thoughte ones / I wolde fonde
 To do hir knowe / and v[n]derstonde 1260
 My woo / and she wel vnderstode
 That I ne wilned / no thyng but gode
 And worshippe / and to kepe hir name
 Ouer alle thynges / and dred hir shame 1264
 And was so besy / hyr to serve
 And pitee were / I shulde sterve
 Syth that I wilned / noon harme y-wys
 So whañ my lady / knewe al thys 1268
 My lady yaf me / al hooly
 The noble yifte / of hir mercy
 Savyng hir worshippe / by al weyes
 Dredles I mene / noon other weyes 1272
 And therwith / she yaf me a rynge
 I trowe hyt was / the first thyng
 But yif myñ hert / was I-waxe
 Gladde / that is no nede to axe 1276
 As helpe me god / I was as blyve
 Reysed as fro dethe / to lyve
 Of al happes / the alder best
 The gladdest / and the moste at reste 1280
 For trewly / that swete wyght
 Whañ I had wrong / and she ryght
 She wolde alway / so goodely
 For-yeve me / so debonairely 1284

In al my yowthe / in al chaunce
 She tooke me / in hir gouernaunce
 Therwyth she was / alway so trewe
 Our Ioye was euer / y-lyche newe 1288
 Oure hertys werne / so evene a payre
 That neuer nas / that oon contrarye [leaf 147]
 To that other / for noo woo
 For sothe y-lyche / they suffred thoo 1292
 Oo blysse and eke / oo sorwe bothe
 Y-lyche they were / bothe glad and wrothe
 Al was vs oon / withoute were
 And thus we lyved / ful many a yere 1296
 So wel I kañ / nat telle how
 ¶ Sir quod I / where is¹ she now [¹ is late. 'she ys dede' in Stowe's
 hand, in the margin]
 Now quod he / and stynte anoon
 Therwith he waxe / as dede as stoon 1300
 And seyde allas / that I was bore
 That was the losse / that here before
 I tolde the that / I hadde lorne
 Bethenke how / I seyde herebeforne 1304
 Thow wost / ful lytel / what thow menyst
 I haue lost more / than thow wenyst
 ¶ God wote allas / ryght that was she
 Allas sir how / what may that be 1308
 She ys ded / nay / yis be my trouthe
 Is that youre losse / be god hyt ys routhe
 And with that worde / ryght anoon
 They gañ to strake / forth al was doon 1312
 For that tyme / the herte huntynge
 With that me thoght / that this kynge
 Gañ homewarde / for to ryde
 Vnto a place / was there besyde 1316
 Which was from vs / but a lyte
 A longe castel / with wallys white
 Be seynt Iohañ / oñ a ryche hille
 As me mette / but thus hyt fille 1320

Ryght^t thus me mette / as I yow telle
 That in the castell / ther was a belle
 As hyt hadde smyte / oures twelve
 Therewyth I / a-wooke my selve 1324
 And fonde me lyinge / in my bedde
 And the booke / that I hadde redde [leaf 147, back?]
 Of Alchione / and Seys the kyng
 And of the goddys / of slepyng 1328
 I fond hyt / in myñ honde ful evene
 Thoght^t I thys ys / so queynt a sweuene
 That I wol / be processe of tyme
 Foñde to put this / sweuene in ryme 1332
 As I kañ best / and that anooñ
 This was my sweuene / now hit ys dooñ

¶ **Explicit the Boke of the Duchesse**

II.

The Complaynte to Pite.

[How Pity is dead in a cruel Lobed-One's Heart.]

(This is Chaucer's 1st Poem, and should be studied first. Its subject is alluded to in the *Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse* and the *Parlament of Foules*. See my *Trial-Forewords*.)

[*Fairfax MS 16 (vellum, ?1440-50; Bodl. Libr.), leaf 187.*]

[*t̃ is for t with a curl over it; ñ is for n.*]

¶ Balade.

[*complainte of the deathe of pitie (in Stowe's hand)*]

(1) [*The Proem.*]

Pite that I haue sought^{t̃} / so yore agoo
 With hert soore / and ful of besy peyne
 That in this worlde / was neuer wight^{t̃} so woo
 With-oute dethe / and yf I shal not feyne 4
 My purpose was / to pite / to compleyne
 Vponⁿ the crueltee / and tirannye
 Of loue / that for my trouthe doth^h me dye 7

(2) [*The Story.*]

And when^ñ that I be lengt^he / of certeyne yeres
 Had euere in oo^ñ / soughte a tyme to speke
 To pitee ra^ñ I / al bespreynte with teres
 To praye^ñ hir o^ñ cruelte / me awake 11
 But er I myght^{t̃} / with any worde out breke
 Or tellen any / of my peynes smerte
 I fonde hir dede / and buried in an herte 14

(3)

Adovne I fel / when^ñ I saugh^h the herse
 Dede as stone / while that the swogh me laste
 But vp I roose / with coloure ful dyuerse
 And petously onⁿ hir / my^ñ eye^ñ I caste 18
 And ner the corps / I ga^ñ prese^ñ faste
 And for the soule / I shope me for to prey
 I was but lorne / ther was no more to sey 21

(4)

Thus am I slayne / sith that pite is dede
 Allas that day / that euer hyt shuld falle
 What maner man / dar now hold vp his hede
 To whom shal now / eny sorwful herte calle . 25
 Now cruelte hath caste / to slee vs alle
 In ydel hope / folke redelesse of peyne
 Syth she is dede / to whom shul we compleyne 28

(5)

But yet encreseth me / this wonder newe
That no wight woot / that she is dede but I
So many men / as in her tyme hir knewe
And yet dyed not / sodeynly 32
For I haue sought hir euer / ful besely
Sith I hadde firste / witte or mynde
But she was dede / er I koude hir fynde 35

(6)

Aboute hir herse / there stodeñ lustely [leaf 187, back]
 Withoute any woo / as thoughte me
 Bounte parfyte / wel armed and richely
 And fresshe beaute / lust and iolyte 39
 Assured maner / youthe and honeste
 Wisdome estaat / drede and gouernaunce
 Confedred both by bonde / and Alliaunce 42

(7)

A compleynt had I writen / in myn honde
To haue put to pittee / as a bille
But when I al this companye / ther fonde
That rather wolde / al my cause spille 46
Then do me helpe / I helde my pleynt stille
For to that folke / with-oute any fayle
Withoute pitee / ther may no bille a-vaile 49

(8)

Then leve we al vertues / saue oonly pite
 Kepyng the corps / as ye haue herde me seyn
 Cofedered by bonde / and by cruelte
 And ben assented / when I shal be sleyñ 53
 And I haue put my complaynt / vp ageyn
 For to my ffoes / my bille I dar not shewe
 Theeffect of which / seith thus in wordes fewe 56

(9) [*The Bill of Complaint.*] (*Tern I. 1*)

Humblest of herte / highest of reuerence
 Benygne flour / corovne of vertues alle
 Sheweth vn-to youre rialle / excellence
 Youre servaunt / yf I durst me / so calle 60
 Hys mortal harme / in which he is falle
 And noght al oonly / for his euel fare
 But for your renoun / as he shal declare 63

(10) (I. 2)

Hit stondesth thus / that your contrary crueltee
 Allyed is / ayenst your regalye
 Vnder colour / of womanly beaute
 For meñ shulde not / knowe hir tirannye 67
 With bounte gentillesse / and curtesye
 And hath depryved yow / of your place
 That is hygh beaute / apertenent to your grace 70

(11) (I. 3)

For kyndely / by youre herytage ryght [leaf 188]
 Ye be annexed euer / vnto bounte
 And verrely ye oughte / do youre myght
 To helpe trouthe / in his aduersyte 74
 Ye be also the corowne / of beaute
 And certes yf ye want / in these tweyn
 The worlde is lore / ther is no more to seyn 77

(12) (*Tern* II. 1)

Eke what availeth maner / and gentillesse
 Withoute yow / benygne creature
 Shal cruelte / be your gouverneresse
 Allas what herte / may hyt longe endure 81
 Wherfore but ye / the rather take cure
 To breke that perilouse / alliaunce
 Ye sleeñ hem that ben / in your obeisaunce 84

(13) (II. 2)

And further ouer / yf ye suffre this
 Youre renouñ ys fordoo / in a throwe
 Ther shal no mañ wete weH / what pite is
 Allas that euer your renouñ / is falle so lowe 88
 Ye be also / fro youre heritage y-throwe
 By cruelte / that occupieth youre place
 And we despeyred / that spekeñ to your grace 91

(14) (II. 3)

Haue mercy oñ me / thow herenus quene
 That yow haue sought / so tendirly and yore
 Let somme streme of lyght / on me be sene
 That loue and drede yow / euer lenger the more 95
 For sothely for to seyne / I bere so soore
 And though I be not kunnyng / for to pleyne
 For goddis loue / haue mercy on my peyne 98

(15) (*Tern* III. 1)

My peyne is this / that what so I desire
 That haue I not ne no thing / lyke therto
 And euer setteth desire / myñ hert oñ fire
 Eke oñ that other sydes / where so I goo 102
 What maner thinge / that may encrese my woo
 That haue I redy vnsoghte / euery where
 Me lakketh but my deth / and thañ my bere 105

(16) (III. 2)

What nedeth to shewe parcel / of my peyne [leaf 188, back]
 Syth euery woo / that herte may be-thynke
 I suffre / and yet I dar not to yow pleyne
 For wel I wote / though I wake or wynke 109
 Ye rekke not / where I flete or synke
 But natheles yet / my trouthe I shal sustene
 Vnto my deth / and that shal wel be sene 112

(17) (III. 3)

This is to seyne / I wol be youres euer
 Though ye me slee / by crueltee your soo
 Algate my spirite / shal neuer disseuer
 Fro youre seruise / for eny peyne or woo 116
 Sith ye be yet ded / alas that hyt is soo
 Thus for your deth / I may wel wepe and pleyne
 With herte sore / and ful of besy peyne 119

¶ Explicit.

III.

The Parlement of Foules.

[MS Gg. 4. 27, Cambr. Univ. Libr. (vellum, ?1430-40 A.D.).]

Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulys. [on leaf 480, back]

(1) [*The Proem.*]

THe lyf so short the craft so longe to lerne [leaf 481]
 Thassay so sharp / so hard the conquerynge
 The dredful Ioye / alwey that slit so 3erne
 Al this mene I / be loue / that myn felynge 4
 A-stonyd with his wondyrful werkynge
 So sore I-wis / that whan I on hym thynke
 Nat wot I wel wher that I slete or synke 7

(2)

For al be that / I knowe nat loue In dede
 Ne wot how that he quitith folk here hyre
 3it happith me ful ofte / in bokis reede
 Of hise myraklis & his crewel yre 11
 That rede I wel / he wele be lord & syre
 I dar nat seyn / his strokis been so sore
 But god save swich a lord I sey na moore 14

(3)

Of vsage what for lust & what for lore
 On bokis rede I ofte / as I 3ow tolde
 But wherfore that I speke al this nat 3oore
 Agon. it happede me for to be-holde 18
 Vp on a bok was wrete with letteris olde
 And ther vpon a certeyn thing to lerne
 The longe day ful faste I redde & 3erne 21

(4)

For ofte of olde feldys / as men sey .
 Comyth al this newe¹ corn from 3er to 3ere [1 in Corrector's hand]
 And out of olde bokis in good fey
 Comyth al this newe science that men lere 25
 But now to purpos as of this matere
 To rede forth so gan me to delite
 That al that day me thou3te but a lyte 28

(5)

This bok of which I make of mencion
 Entytlt was al thus as I schal telle
 Tullyus of the drem of sothion
 Chapteris seuene It hadde / of heuene & helle 32
 And erthe · and soulis that thereon¹ dwelle [¹ o altered from y]
 Of whiche as shortly as I can it trete
 Of his centence I wele ȝow seyn the greete 35

(6)

Fyrst tellith it whan scipion was come [leaf 481, back]
 In Affrik how he metyh massynisse
 That hym for Ioie in armys hath I-nome
 Thanne tellyth he here spche / & of the blysse 39
 That was be-twixsyn hem thil that day gan mysse
 And how his Auncestre Affrycan so deere
 Gan in his slep that nyȝt to hym a-pere 42

(7)

Thanne tellith it / that from a sterry place
 How Affrycan hath hym cartage schewid /
 And warnede hym be-forn of al his grace
 And seyde what man lernyd oper lewid 46
 That louede comoun profyt wel I-thewid
 He shulde in to a blysfyl place wende
 There as Ioye is þat last with outyn ende 49

(8)

Thanne axede he If folk that now been dede
 Han lyf & dwellynge In a nothir place
 And Affrican seyde ȝa with outyn drede
 And that oure present wordis lyuys space 53
 Nys but a maner deth what weye we trace
 And rightful folk schul gon aftyr they deye
 To heuene / & schewede hym the galylye 56

(9)

Thanne shewede he hym the erthe that here is
 At regard of the heuenys quantite
 And after shewede he hym the nyne speris
 And aftyr that the melodye herde he 60
 That comyth of thilke speris thryes thre
 That welle is of musik & melodye
 In this world here & cause of armonye 63

(10)

Than bad he hym syn erthe was so lyte
 And was sumdel disseyuable & ful of harde grace
 That he ne schulde hym in the world delyte
 Thanne tolde he hym in certeyn 3eris space 67
 That euery sterre shulde come in to his place
 Ther it was ferst & al schulde out of mynde
 That in this world is don of al mankynde 70

(11)

Thanne preyede hym cypyon to telle hym al [leaf 482]
 The weye to come In to that heuene blis
 And he seyde know thyn self ferst immortal
 And loke ay besyly thow werche & wysse 74
 To comoun profit & thow shat not mysse
 To comyn swiftly to this place deere
 That ful of blysse is & soulys cleere 77

(12)

But brekeis of the lawe soth to seyn
 And lykerous folk aftyr that they ben dede
 Schul whirle a-boute pere alwey in peyne
 Tyl manye a world be passid out of drede 81
 And that for-3euyn is his weked dede
 Than shal pey comyn in to this blysfyl place
 To whiche to comyn god synde us grace 84

(13)

The day gan folwyn & the derke nyȝt	
That revith bestis from here besynesse	
Berafte me myn bok for lak of lyght	
And to myn self I gan me for to dresse	88
Fulfyld of thouȝt & busy heuynesse	
For bothe I hadde thyng that I nolde	
And ek I ne hadde thyng that I wolde	91

(14)

But fynally myn spirit at the laste	
For-wery of myn labour al the day	
Tok reste that made me to slepe faste	
And In myn slep I mette as þat I lay	95
How affrican ryȝt in the same a-ray	
That ¹ cipion hym say by-fore that tyde	[¹ That corrected]
Was come & stod riȝt at myn bedis syde	98

(15)

The wery hunttere slepynge In his bed	
To wode a-ȝen his mynde goth a-non	
The Iuge dremyth how hise pleis been sped	
The cartere dremyth how his carte is gon	102
The riche of gold / the knyght fyȝt with his fon	
The syke met he drynkyth of the tunne	
The louere met he hath his lady wonne	105

(16)

Can I nat seyn If that the cause were	[leaf 482, back]
For I hadde red of affrican by-foren	
That made me to mete that he stod theere	
But thus seyde he thow hast the so wel born	109
In lokynge of myn olde bok by-forn	
Of whiche Macrobye roughete nat a lyte	
That sumdel of thyn labour wolde I quyte	112

(17) [*Invocation.*]

Cythera thow blysfyl lady swete
 That with thyn ferbrond dauntist whom thow lest
 And madist me this sweuene for to mete
 Be thow myn helpe in this for thow mayst best 116
 As wisely as I seye the north nor west
 Whan I be-gan myn sweuene for to write
 So 3if me myght to ryme & ek tendyte 119

(18) [*The Story.*]

This forseide Affrican me hente a-non
 And forth with hym vnto a gate brou3te
 Ry3t of a park wallid of grene ston
 And ouyr the gatis with letteris large I-wrowht 123
 There were vers I-wrete as me thou3t
 On eythir syde of ful gret difference
 Of which I schal now seyn the pleyn sentence 126

(19)

Thorw me men gon in to that blysfyl place
 Of hertis hele & dedly woundis cure
 Thorw me men gon on-to the welle of grace
 Theere grene & lusty may shal euere endure 130
 This is the weye to al good auenture
 Be glad thow redere & thyn sorwe ouercaste
 Al opyn am I. passe in & sped the faste 133

(20)

Thorw me men gon than spat that othir side
 Onto the mortal strokis of the spere
 Of whiche disdayn & daunger is the gyde
 That neuere 3it shal freut ne leuys bere 137
 This strem 3ow ledith to sorweful were
 There as the fisch in prysoun is al drye
 Ther¹ shewyng is only the remedye [1 er inserted] 140

(21)

These wers of gold & blak I wetyn were [leaf 483]
 Of whiche I gan a-stonyd to be-holde
 For whi that on encresede ay myn fere
 And with that othir gan myn herte bolde 144
 That on me hette that othir dede me colde
 No wit hadde I for errour for to chese
 To entre . or flen . or me to saue . or lese 147

(22)

Right as be-twixsyn adamauntis two
 Of euene myȝt a pece of yryn set
 Ne hath no myȝt to meue too ne fro
 For what that on may hale that othir let 151
¹Ferde I that nyste whethir me was best [1 so in margin]
 To entre or leue til Affrycan myn gide
 Ne hente & shof in at the gatis wide 154

(23)

And seyde it stant writyn In thyn face
 Thyn errour though thou telle it not to me
 But dred the not to come in to this place
 For this writyng nys no thyng ment bi the 158
 Ne by non but he louys serwaunt be
 For thou of loue hast lost thyn stat I gesse
 As sek man hat of swet & byttyrnesse 161

(24)

But natheles al-thow that thou be dul
 ȝit that thou canst not do ȝit mayst thou se
 For manye a man that may nat stonde a pul
 It likyth hym at wrastelyng for to be 165
 And demyn ȝit wher he do bet or he
 And there If thou haddist / cunnyng for tendite
 I shal the shewe / mater for to wryte 168

(25)

With that myn hand he tok In his a-non
 Of whiche I confort kaughte / & that as faste
 But lord so I was glad / & wel begoon
 For oueral where that I mynne eyen caste 172
 Were treis clad with leuys that ay shal laste
 Eche in his kynde of colour frosch & greene
 As emeroude that sothe was to seene 175

(26)

The byldere ok / & ek the hardy asshe [leaf 483, back]
 The pilere elm / the cofere vnto carayne
 The boxtre pipere / holm to whippis lasch
 The saylynge fyr / the cipresse deth to pleyne 179
 The shetere Ew. / the Asp for shaftys pleyne
 The olyue of pes / & ek the dronke vyne
 The victor palm / the laurer to deuyne 182

(27)

A gardyn saw I ful of blospemy bowys
 Vp on a reuer in a grene mede
 There as ther swetnesse euere more I-now is
 With flouris white blewe & zelwe & rede 186
 And colde welle stremys no thyng dede
 That swemyn ful of smale fischis lite
 With fynnyng rede & skalis syluyr bryghte 189

(28)

On euery bow the bryddis herde I synge
 With voys of aungel In here armonye
 So besyde hem here bryddis forth to brynge
 The litele conyes to here pley gunne hye 193
 And ferthere al aboute I gan aspye
 The dredful ro the buk & hert & hynde
 Squyrelis & bestis smale of gentil kynde 196

(29)

Of Instreumentis of strengis in a-cord
 Herde I so pleye & rauyshyng swetnesse
 That god that makere is of al & lord
 Ne herde neuere betyr as I gesse 200
 Therwith a wynd onethe it myght be lesse
 Made in the leuys grene a noyse softe
 Acordaunt to the bryddis song a lofte 203

(30)

The erthe of that place so attempre was
 That neuere was greuaunce of hot ne cold
 There wex ek euery holsum spice & gres
 No man may waxe there sek ne old 207
 3it was there Ioye more a thousent fold
 Than man can telle ne neuere wolde it nyghte
 But ay cler day to ony manys syghte 210

(31)

Vndyr a tre be-syde a welle I say [leaf 484]
 Cupide oure lord hise arwis forge & file
 And at his fet his bowe al redy lay
 And wel his doughtyr temperede al this whyle 214
 The heuedis in the welle & with hire wile
 She couchede hem aftyr they shulde serve
 Some for to sle & some to wounde & kerve 217

(32)

Tho was I war of plesaunce a-non ryght
 And of aray and lust & curteysie
 And of the craft that can & hath the myght
 To don be-fore a wight to don folye 221
 Disfigurat was she I nyl nat lye
 And by hem self vndyr an ok I gesse
 Saw I delyt that stod with gentillesse 224

(33)

I saw beute with outyn ony a-tyr
 And 3outhe ful of game & Iolyte
 Fool hardynesse & flaterye & desyr
 Messagerye & meede & oþer thre 228
 Here namys shul not here be told for me
 And vp on pileris greete of Iasper longe
 I saw a temple of bras I-founded stronge 231

(34)

Aboute that temple daunsedyn alwey
 Wemen I-nowe of whiche some ther weere
 Fayre of hem self & some of hem were gay
 In kertelis al discheuele wente they there 235
 That was here offys alwey 3er be 3eere
 And on the temple of dowis white & fayre
 Saw I syttynge manye an hunderede peyre 238

(35)

By-fore the temple dore / ful sobyrly
 Dame pes sat *with* / a *curtyn* in hire hond
 And by hire syde / wondyr discretly
 Dame pacience / syttynge there I fond 242
 With face pale / vp on an hil of sond
 And aldirnex / with inne & ek *with* oute
 Byheste & art / & of here folk a route— 245

(36)

With Inne the temple / of sykys hoote as fuyr [leaf 484, back]
 I herde a swow / that gan a-boute renne
 Whiche sikis were engenderede with desyr
 That madyn euery auter for to brenne 249
 Of newe flaume & wel espyed I thenne
 That¹ alle the cause of sorwe that they drye [1 That altered]
 Cam of the bittere goddesse Ielosye / 252

(37)

The god priapus saw I as I wente
 With inne the temple / in souereyn place stonde
 In swich aray as wan¹ the asse hym shente [1 s scratcht out]
 With Cri be nyghte & with septure In his honde 256
 Ful besyly men gunne asaye & fonde
 Vp on his hed to sette of sundery hewe
 Garlondis ful of flourrys frosche & newe 259

(38)

And In a² priue corner / In desport [2 a altered from n]
 Fond I feb3 & hire porter richesse
 That was ful noble & hauntayn of hyre port
 Derk was that place but aftyrward lightnesse 263
 I saw a lyte vnnethe it my3te be lesse
 And on a bed of gold sche lay to reste
 Tyl that the hote sunne gan to weste 266

(39)

Hyre gilte heris with a goldene thred
 I-bounden were vntrussede as sche lay
 And nakyd from the brest vp to the hed
 Men my3the hyre sen / & sothly for to say 270
 The remenaunt was wel keuerede to myn pay
 Rygh with a subtyl couercheif / of valence
 Ther nas no thikkere cloth / of no defense 273

(40)

The place 3af a thousent sauouris sote
 And Bacus god of wyn sat hire be syde
 And sereis³ next that doth of hungir boote [3 ei altered]
 And as I seyde a myddis lay Cypride 277
 To wham on kneis two 3onge folk there cryede
 To ben here helpe / but thus I let hem lye
 And ferthere in the temple I gan espie 280

(41)

That In dispit of Dyane the chaste [leaf 485]
 Ful manye a bowe I-broke hyng on the wal
 Of maydenys swiche as gunne here tymys waste
 In hyre seruyse I-peyntede were oueral 284
 Ful manye a story of whiche I touche shal
 A fewe / as of Calyote . & Athalante
 And manye a mayde of whiche the name I wante 287

(42)

Semyramus Candace & Hercules
 Biblis . Dido . Thisbe . & piramus
 Tristram . Isaude . paris . & Achilles
 Elyne Cliopatre & Troylis 291
 Silla & ek the modyr of Romulus
 Alle these were peyntid on that othir syde
 And al here loue & in what plyt they deyde 294

(43)

Whan I was come a-ȝen vn to the place
 That I of spak that was so sote & grene
 Forth welk I tho myn seluyn to solace
 Tho was I war / wher that ther sat a queene 298
 That as of lygh the someris sunnys shene
 Passith the sterre / right so ouermesure
 She fayrere was than ony creature 301

(44)

And In a launde vp on an hil of flouris
 Was set this noble goddesse nature
 Of braunchis were here hallis & here bouris
 I-wrough after here cast & here mesuris 305
 Ne there was foul that comyth of engendrure
 That they ne were al prest in here presence
 To take hire dom / & ȝeue hire audyence 308

(45)

For this was on seynt Volantynys day
 Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make
 Of euery kynde that men thynke may
 And that so heuge a noyse gan they make 312
 That erthe & eyr & tre & euery lake
 So ful was that onethe was there space
 For me to stonde. so ful was al the place 315

(46)

And righ as aleyn In the pleynt of kynde [leaf 485, back]
 Deuyseth natur In aray / & face
 In swich aray men myghte hire there fynde
 This nobil emperesse ful of grace 319
 Bad euery foul to take his owene place
 As they were wonyd alwey from 3er to 3eere
 Seynt Volantynys day to stondyn theere 322

(47)

That is to seyn the foulis of rauyne
 Were heyest set & thanne foulis smale
 That etyn as hem nature wolde enclyne
 As werm or thyng I telle myn tale 326
 And watyr foul sat loueste in the dale
 But foul that lyuyth be sed sat on the grene
 And that so fele that wondyr was to sene 329

(48)

There myghte men the ryal egle fynde
 That with his sharpe lok persith the sunne
 And othere eglis of a lowere kynde
 Of whiche that clerkis wel deuyse cunne 333
 Ther was the tiraunt *with* his federys dunne
 A grey I mene the goshauk that doth pyne
 To¹ bryddis for his outrageous rauyne [Tho: h inserted] 336

(49)

The gentyl facoun that *with* his feet distraynyth
 The kyngis hand / the hardy sperhauk eke
 The quaylis foo / the Merilioun that paynyth
 Hym self ful ofte the larke for to seke 340
 There was the douue *with* hire eyen meke
 The Ielous swan / a-ȝens hire deth that syngith
 The oule ek that of deth the bode bryngyth 343

(50)

The crane geaunt with his trompis soun
 The thef the crow / & ek the Iangelynge pye
 The skornynge Iay / the elis fo heroun
 The false lapwynge ful of trecherye 347
 The starlyng that the conseyl can be-wreye
 The tame rodok & the coward kyte
 The kok that orloge is / of thorpis lyte 350

(51)

The sparwe venus sone / the nyhtyngale [leaf 486]
 That clepith forth the grene leuys newe
 The swalwe morthere of the foulis smale
 That makyn hony of flouris frosche & newe 354
 The wedded turtil with hire herte trewe
 The pokok *with* his aungelis clothis bryghte
 The fesaunt skornere of the cok be nyghte 357

(52)

The wakyng goos / the cokkow ¹most onkynde [¹m altered from en]
 The popyniay ful of delicasye
 The drake stoyere of his owene kynde
 The stork the wrekere of a-vouterye 361
 The hote Cormeraunt of glotenye
 The rauens wys / the crowe wit vois of care
 The thurstil old / the frosty feldefare 364

(53)

What shulde I seyn of foulis euery kynde
 That In this world hath federis & stature
 Men myghtyn in that place assemblede fynde
 By-fore the noble goddessse / nature 368
 And eueriche of hem dede his besy cure
 Benygnely to chese or for to take
 By hire a-cord his formel or his make 371

(54)

But to the poynt nature held on hire hond
 A formele egle of shap the gentilleste
 That euere she a-mong hire werkis fond
 The moste benygne & the goodlieste 375
 In hire was eueri vertu at his reste
 So fer forth that nature hire self hadde blysse
 To loke on hire & ofte hire bek to kysse 378

(55)

Nature vicarye o the almyghty lord
 That hot. cold. heuy. lyght. moyst. & dreye
 Hath knyht *with* euene noumberis of a-cord
 In esy voys gan for to speke & seye 382
 Foulis tak hed of myn centence I preye
 And for 3ore ese In fortheryng of 3oure nede
 As faste¹ as I may speke I wele 3ow speede [¹ a altered] 385

(56)

3e knowe wel how seynt volantynys day [leaf 486, lack]
 By myn statute / & thorw myn gouernaunce
 3e come for to cheese & fle 3oure wey
 3oure makis as I prike 3ow *with* plesaunce 389
 But natheles myn ryghtful ordenaunce
 May I nat breke for al this world to wyne
 That he that most is worthi shal begynne 392

(57)

The terslet egle as that 3e knowe ful wel
 The foul ryal a-bouyn euery degre
 The wyse & worthi secre trewe as stel
 Whiche I haue formyd as 3e may wel se 396
 In euery part as it best likyth me
 It nedith not / his shap 3ow to deuyse
 He shal ferst schese / & spekyn In his gyse 399

(58)

And after hym by ordere shul they chese
 After 3oure kynde eueriche as 3e lykyth
 And as 3oure hap is shul 3e wyne or lese
 But which of 3ow that loue most entrikyth 403
 God synde hym hire that soryest for hym sykyth
 And therwithal the tersel gan she calle
 And seyde myn sone the choys is to 3ow falle 406

(59)

But natheles in this condicioun
 Mot be the choys / of euerich that is heere
 That she a-gre to his eleccioun /
 What so he be that shulde be hire feere 410
 This is oure vsage alwey from 3er to 3eere
 And ho so may at this tyme haue his grace
 In blisful tyme he cam into this place 413

(60)

With hed enclyned & with humble cheere
 This ryal tersel / spak. & tariede noht
 Vn to myn souereyn lady & not myn fere
 I chese & shes with wil & herte & thought 417
 The formel on 3oure hond so wel I-wrouzt
 Whos I am al & euere wele hire serve
 Do what hire lest / to do me leve¹ or sterve [1 originally here]

(61)

Besekynge hire of merci & of grace [leaf 487]
 As she that is myn¹ lady souereyne [1 corrected myn]
 Or let me deye present in this place
 For certis longe I may nat lyue In payne 424
 For In myn herte is korvyn euery veyne
 And hauynge only reward to myn trouthe
 Myn deere herte haue of myn wo sum routhe 427

(62)

And If that I to hyre be founde vntrewe
 Dishobeysaunt or wilful necligent
 Auauntour or in proces loue a newe
 I preye to 3ow this be myn Iugement 431
 That with these foulis be I al torent
 That ilke day that euere she me fynde
 To hire vntrewe / or In myn gilt vnkynde 434

(63)

And syn that hire / louyth non so wel as I
 Al be It that he me neuere of loue be-heette² [2 te originally ee]
 Thanne ouhte she be myn thour hire mercy
 For othir bond can I non on hire areete³ [3 te altered to ete] 438
 Ne neuere for no wo ne shal I lette
 To seruyne hire how fer so that she wende
 Say what 3ow leste myn tale is at an ende 441

(64)

Ryght as the frosche rede rose newe
 A-3en the somyr sunne coloured is
 Ryght so for shame al wexen gan hire hewe
 Of this formel whan she herde al this 445
 She neythir answerde wel ne seyde a mys
 So sore a-bashat was she tyl that nature
 Seyde ⁴dooughter drede the nought I 3ow assure [4 do originally dr]

(65)

A nothir tersel egle spak a-non
 Of ¹lower kynde seyde that shal nat be [1 l w e altered]
 I loue hire bet than 3e don be seynt Ion
 Or at the leste I loue as wel as 3e 452
 And longere haue seruyd hire in myn degre
 And ²If she shulde a loid for long louynge [2 originally ff]
 To me fullonge hadde be the gerdonyng 455

(66)

I dar ek seyn If she me fynde fals [leaf 487, back]
 Vnkynde or Iangelere / or rebel ony wyse
 Or gelous do me hangyn by the hals
 And but I bere me / In hire seruyse 459
 As wel as that myn wit can me suffyse
 From poynt In poynt / hyre honour for to saue
 Tak the myn lif & al the good I haue 462

(67)

The thredde tercel Egle answerde tho
 Now serys 3e seen the lytil leyser heere
 For euery foul cryeth out to ben a-go
 Forth with his mak or with his lady deere 466
 And ek nature hire self ne wele not heere
 For taryinge here not half that I wolde seye
 And but I speke / I mot for sorwe deye 469

(68)

Of long seruyse auante I me nothing
 That possible is to me to deye to day
 For wo as he that hath ben languyssynge
 This twenty 3eer & as wel happyn may 473
 A man may seruyn bet & more to pay
 In half a 3er al thav It were no moore
 Than sum man doth that hath seruyd ful 3oore 476

(69)

I sey not this by me for I ne can
Don non seruyse that may myn lady¹ plese [1 altered]
But I dar seyn / I am hire treweste man
As to myn dom and fayneste wolde hire ese 480
At shorte wordis til that deth me sese
I wele ben heris were I wake or wynke
And trewe in al that herte may bethynke 483

(70)

Of al myn lyf syn that day I was born
So gentil ple in loue or othir thyng
Ne herde neuere no man me be-forn
Ho that hadde leyser & cunnyng 487
For to rehearse hyre cher & hire spekyng
And from the morwe gan this speche laste
Tyl downward drow the sunne wondir faste 490

(71)

The noyse of foulis for to ben delyuered [leaf 488]
So loude ronge haue don & lat vs wende
That wel wende I the wode hadde al to-slyuered
Cum of they criedyn allas 3e wele vs shynde 494
Whan shal 3ure cursede pletynge hauyn an ende
How shulde a Iuge eythir partie leue
For 3e or nay / with outyn othir preue 497

(72)

The goos the cokkow / & the doke also
So cryede kek kek . kokkow . quek quek hye
That thourw myne erys the noyse wente tho
The goos seyde al this nys not worth a flye 501
But I can shappe herof a remedie
And I wele seye myn verdit fayre & swythe
For watyr foul ho so be wroth or blythe 504

(73)

And I for werm foul quod the fol kokkowe
 And I wele of myn owene autorite
 For comun profit tak on / no charg howe
 For to delyuere vs Is gret charite 508
 3e may onbyde a while 3it perde
 Quod the turtil If it be 3oure wille
 A whit may speke / hym were as fayr ben styllle 511

(74)

I¹ am a sed foul, on the onworthieste [1 an erasure]
 That wot I wel / & litil of cunnynge
 But bet is that a wyhtis tunge reste
 Than entirmetyn hym of suhe doinge 515
 Of which he neythir rede can ne fynde
 And who so doth ful foule hym self a-cloyith
 for offys onquit ofte a-noyeth. 518

(75)

Nature which that alwey hadde an ere
 To murmur of the lewedenesse
 with facound voys seyde hold 3oure tungis there
 And I shal sone I hope a conseyl fynde 522
 3ow to delyuere & from this noyse vnbynde
 I Iuge on euery folk men shul on calle
 To seyn the verdit for yow foullys alle 525

(76)

Assentid was to this conclusioun [leaf 488, back]
 The briddis alle & foulis of lauyne
 Han chosyn fyrst by playn eleccioun
 The terselet of the facoun to diffyne 529
 Al here centence as hem leste to termȳne
 And to nature hym gunne to presente
 And she acceptyh hym with glad entente 532

(77)

The terslet seyde In this manere
 Ful hard were it to proue by resoun
 Who louth best this gentil forme heere
 For euerych hath swich replicacioun 536
 That non by skillis may been brought a-doun
 I can not se that Argumentis avayle
 Thanne semyth it there muste be batayle 539

(78)

Al redy quod this Eglis terslet tho
 Nay seris quod he If that I durste it seye
 3e don me wrong / myn tale is not I-do
 For seris ne takith not a gref I preye 543
 It may not gon as 3e wolde in this weye
 Oure is the voys that¹ han the charg on honde [1 t altered]
 And to the Iugis dom / 3e motyn stonde 546

(79)

And therfore pes I seye / as to myn wit
 Me wolde thynke how that the worthiest
 Of knyghthod² & lengest hath vsed it [2 the t altered]
 Most of estat of blod the gentilleste 550
 Were sittynge for hire If that he leste
 And of these thre she wot hire self I trowe
 Whiche that he be / for here³ is light to knowe [3 originally hre]

(80)

The watyr foulis han here hedis leid
 To gedere & of a short auysement
 Whan euerryche hadde his large gole seyd
 They seydyn sothly al be on assent 557
 How that the goos with hire facounde so gent
 That so desyrith to pronounce oure nede
 Shal telle oure tale & preyede god hym spede 560

(81)

As for these watyr foulis tho¹ be-gan [¹ goos *scratcht out*] [*leaf 489*]
 The goos to speke & in his kakelynge
 He seyde pes now tak kep euery man
 And herkenyth which a resoun I shal brynge 564
 Myn wit is sharp I loue no tarynge
 I seye I rede hym thow he were myn brothir
 But she wele loue hym let hym take a nothir 567

(82)

Lo here a perfit resoun of a goos
 Quod the sperhauk / neuere mot he the
 lo sich it is to haue a tunge loos
 Now perde fol now were it bet for the 571
 Han holde thyn pes than shewe thyn nysete
 It lyth nat in his mygh ne in his wille
 But soth is seyde a fol can not ben stille 574

(83)

The laughtere aros of gentil foulis alle
 And righ a-non the sedful chosyn hade
 The tersel trewe / and gunne hire to hem calle
 And preyede hire for to seyn the sothe sadde 578
 Of this matere & axsede what she rardde
 And she answerde / that pleylnly hire entente
 She wolde it shewe & sothly what she mente 581

(84)

Nay god forbede a louere shulde chaunge
 The tersel seyde / & wex for shame red
 Thow that his lady euere more be straunge
 3it lat hym serue hire til that he be ded 585
 Forsothe I preyse nat the gosis red
 For thow sche deyede I wolde non othir make
 I wele ben hire til that the deth me take 588

(85)

Wel bordit quod the doke by myn hat
 That men shul louyn alwey causeles
 Who can a resoun fynde or wit in that
 Daunsith he murye that is myrtheles 592
 What shulde I rekke of hym that is recheles
 Kek kek 3it seith the doke ful wel & fayre
 There been mo sterris god wot than a payre 595

(86)

Now sey cherl quod the gentil terslet [leaf 489, back]
 out of the donghil cam that word ful ri3t
 Thow canst nat seen what thyng is wel be-set
 Thow farst by loue as oulys don by lyght 599
 The day hem blent but wel they sen be nygh
 Thyn kynde is of so low a wrechednese
 That what loue is thow canst nat seen ne gese 602

(87)

Tho gan the kokkow putte hym forth in pres
 For foul that etith werm & seyde blythe
 So I quod he may haue myn make in pes
 I reche nat how longe that 3e stryue 606
 Lat eche of hem ben soleyn al here lyue
 This is myn red syn they may nat a-corde
 This shorte lessoun nedith nat recorde 609

(88)

3e have¹ the glotoun fild I-now his paunche [¹ originally han]
 Thanne are we wel seyde thanne a Merlioun
 Thow morthere of the heysoge on the braunche
 That broughte the forth thow reufulles glotoun 613
 Leue thow soleyn werm corrupcioun
 For no fors is of lak of thyn nature
 Go lewed be thow whil that the world may dure 616

(89)

Now pes quod nature I comaunde here
 For I haue herd al 3oure opynyoun
 And ¹ In effect 3it be we not the nere [1 *erasure*]
 But fynally this is myn conclusioun 620
 That she hire self shal han the eleccioun
 Of whom hire lest & who be wroth & blythe
 Hym that she chesith / he shal hire han a swithe 623

(90)

For syn It may not here discussid be
 Who lough hire best as seyth the terslet
 Thanne wele I don hire this fauour that she
 Shal han² hym on hom hire herte is set [2 *han altered*] 627
 And he hire that / his herte hath on hire knyht
 Thus Iuge I nature / for I may not lye
 To non estat / I haue non othir eye. 630

(91)

But as for conseyl for to chese a make [leaf 490]
 If .I. were resoun certis thanne wolde I
 Conseyle 3ow the ryal tersel take
 As seyde the terselet ful skylfully 634
 As for the gentilleste & most worthi
 which I haue wrought so wel to myn plesaunce
 That to 3ow oughte to been a suffisaunce 637

(92)

With dredful vois / the formel tho answerde
 Myn rightful lady goddessse of nature
 Soth ist that I am euere vndyr 3oure 3erde
 As is a nothir lyuis creature 641
 And mot ben 3oure whil that myn lyf may dure
 And therfore grauntyth me myn ferste bone
 And myn entent that wele I seyn wol sone 644

(93)

I graunte it ȝow *quod* she & that a-non
This formel egle spak in this degre
Almyghty queen vnto this ȝer be gon
I axe respit for to a-vise me 648
And aftyr that to haue myn choys al fre
This al & sum that I wele speke & seye
ȝe gete no more al thow ȝe do me deye 651

(94)

I wele nat serue venus ne cupide
Forsothe as ȝit be no manere weye
Now syn it may non othirwise betyde
Quod tho nature heere is no more to seye 655
Thanne wolde I that these foulis were a-weye
Eche *with* his make for tarynge lengere heere
And seyde hym thus as ȝe shul aftyr here 658

(95)

To ȝow speke I ȝe tersletis *quod* nature
Beth of good herte & seruyth alle thre
A ȝer ne is nat so longe to endure
And eche of ȝow peignyng in his degre 662
For to do wel for god wot what is she
For ȝow this ȝer what aftyr so be-falle
This entyrmes is dressid for ȝow alle 665

(96)

And whan this werk al brought was to an ende [leaf 490, back]
To euery foul nature ȝaf his make
By euene a-cord & on here weye they wende
But lord the blisse & Ioye that they make 669
For ech gan othir in his wyngis take
And with here nekkis eche gan othyr wynde
Thankynge alwey the noble queen of kynde 672

(97)

But fyrst were chosyn / foulis for to synge
 As 3er be 3er was alwey the vsance
 To synge a roundele at here departynge
 To don to nature honour & plesaunce 676
 The note I trow I-makid were in fraunce
 The wordis were sweche as 3e may fynde
 The nexte vers as I now haue in mynde 679

[*Roundel: in a later 15th-century hand: no gaps between the stanzas.*]

(I.)

Nowe welcome somor' with sonne softe
 That' hast' thes wintres wedres ovire shake
 And dreuyne a-way the large nyghtes blake 682

(II.)

Saynt' volantyne that ert' ful hye o lofte
 Thus syngēn smale foules for' thy sake 684
 [Now welcome somor &c.]

(III.)

Wele han they cause forto gladen ofte
 Sethe ech of hem recouerede hathe hys make
 Ful blisseful mowe they ben when they wake 687
 [Now welcome somor, &c.]

(98)

And with the shoutyng whan the song was do
 That the foulis madyn at here flyght a wey
 I wok & othere bokys tok me to
 To reede vp on & 3it I rede alwey 691
 In hope I-wis to rede so sum day
 That I shal mete sum thyng for to fare
 The bet & thus to rede I nele nat spare 694

Explicit parliamentum Auium In die sancti Valentini ten-
 tum secundum Galfridum Chaucer. Deo gracias.

IV.

The Complaynt of Mars.

[Fairfax MS 16, leaf 15. Leaf 14, back, is filled with a coloured illumination in 3 compartments; at the top is Iubiter, on the left is Mars, and on the right Venus, with Cupid above her on her right, and Vulcan below her on the left.]

¶ Complaynt of Mars and Venus.

[ñ is for n with a curl over it.]

(1) [The Proem.]

Gladeth ye lovers · oñ the morowe gray
 Loo Venus rysen · amonge yow rowes rede
 And floures fressh / honoureñ the this day
 For when the sunne vprist · then wol they sprede
 But ye lovers · that lye in eny drede
 Fleetñ lest wikked tonges · yow espye
 Loo yonde the sunne · the candel of Ialosye 7

(2)

Wyth teres blew · and with a wounded hert
 Taketh your leve · and with sent Ioñ to borowe
 Apeseth sumwhat · of your sorowes smert
 Tyme cometh ofte · that cese shal your sorowe 11
 The glad nyght · ys worthe an heuy morowe
 Seynt Valentyne a foule · thus herd I synge
 Vpon your day · er' sunne gan vp sprynge 14

(3)

Yet sange this foule · I rede yow al a-wake
 And ye that han not chosen · in humble wyse
 Yet at this fest · renoueleth your seruyse
 With-out repentyng · cheseth your make 18
 And ye that han ful chosen · as I deuise
 Confermeth hyt · perpetuely to dure
 And paciently · taketh your Auenture 21

(4)

And for the worship · of this highe fest
 Yet wol I · in my briddes wise synge
 The sentence · of the compleynt at the lest
 That woful Mars · made atte departyng 25
 Fro fresshe Venus · in a morwnyng
 Whañ Phebus · with his firy torches rede
 Ransaked hath · euery loue in hys drede 28

(5) [*The Story.*]

Whilom the thrid heuenes · lord a-bove
 As wel by heuenys · reuolucioñ
 As by desert · hath wonne Venus his love
 And she hath take him · in subieccioñ 32
 And as a maistresse · taught him his lessoñ
 Commaundyng him · that neuere in her seruise [leaf 15, back]
 He ner so bolde · no loue to dispise 35

(6)

For she forbad him · Ielosye at alle
 And cruelte · and bost and tyrannye
 She made at her lust · so humble and calle
 That when her deynd · to cast on hym her ye 39
 He toke in pacience · to lyve or dye
 And thus she brydeleth him · in her maner
 With no thing · but with stering of her cher 42

(7)

Who regneth now in blysse · but Venus
 That hath thys worthy knyght · in gouernaunce
 Who syngeth now but Mars / that serueth thus
 the fair Venus · causer of plesaunce 46
 He bynt him · to perpetuall obeisaunce
 And she bynt her · to love him for euer
 But so be / that his trespase hyt deseuer 49

(8)

Thus be they knyht · and regneñ as in heuen
 Be lokyng moost · til hyt fil on a tyde
 That by her bothe assent · was set a steuen
 That Mars shal entre · as fast as he may glyde 53
 In-to hir next paleys · to abyde
 Walkyng hys cours · til she had him a-take
 And he preiede her / to faste her . for his sake 56

(9)

Then seyde he thus · myñ hertis lady suete
 Ye knowe wel · my myschefe in that place
 For sikirly til that I · with yow mete
 My lyfe stant ther · in auenture and grace 60
 But when I se · the beaute of your face
 Ther ys no dred of deth · may do me smert
 For alle your lust · is ese to myñ hert 63

(10)

She hath so grete compassion · oñ her knyght
 That dwelleth in solitude · til she come
 For hyt stode so · that ylke tyme no wight
 Counseyled hym · ne seyde to hym welcome [leaf 16] 67
 that nyghe her witte · for sorowe was ouer-come
 Wherefore she sped her as fast · in her wey
 Almost in oon day · as he dyd in twey 70

(11)

The grete Ioye that was · betwex hem two
 When they be mette · ther may no tunge tel
 ther is no more · but vnto bed thei go
 And thus in Ioy and blysse · I let hem duel 74
 this worthi Mars · that is of knyghthode wel
 the flour of feyrenesse · lappeth in his armes
 And Venus kysseth Mars · the god of Armes 77

(12)

Soiourned hath this Mars · of which I rede
 In chambre · amynd the paleys priuely
 A certeyn tyme · til him fel a drede
 throgh Phebus · that was comen hastely 81
 Within the paleys yates · ful sturdely
 With torche in honde · of which the stremes bryght
 On Venus chambre · knocken ful lyght 84

(13)

The chambre ther as ley · this fresshe quene
 Depeynted was · with white boles grete
 And by the lyght she knew · þat shone so shene
 that Phebus cam to bren hem · with his hete 88
 this cely Venus · nygh dreynt / in teres wete
 enbraceth Mars · and seyde alas I dye
 the torch is come · that al this world wol wrie 91

(14)

Vp stert Mars · hym lust not to slepe
 when he his lady · herde so compleyne
 but for his nature · was not for to wepe
 In stid of teres · fro his eyen twyne 95
 the firi sparkes · brosten out for peyne
 And hent his hauberke · that ley hym besyde
 Fle wold he not · ne myght him seluen hide 98

(15)

He thrwe on his helme · of huge wyght
 And girt him with his swerde / and in his honde [leaf 16, back]
 his myghty spere / as he was wont to fyght
 he shaketh so / that almost hit to-wonde 102
 Ful hevy was he / to walken ouer londe
 he may not holde / with Venus companye
 But bad her flee / lest phebus her espye 105

(16)

O woful Mars alas / what maist thou seyñ
 that in the paleys / of thy disturbaunce
 Art thou left by-hynde / in peril to be sleyñ
 And yet ther-to / ys double thy penaunce 109
 For she that hath thyn hert / in gouernaunce
 Is passed halfe the stremes / of thin yen
 that thou ner swift / wel maist thou wepe and crieñ 112

(17)

Now fleeth Venus / in to cilinios toure
 Wich voide cours / for fere of phebus lyght
 Alas and ther hath she / no socoure
 For she ne founde / ne saugh no maner wyght 116
 And eke as ther / she had but litil myght
 Wher-for her seluen / for to hyde and saue
 Whithin the gate / she fel in-to A. caue 119

(18)

Derke was this caue / and smokyng as the hel
 Not but two pales / within the yate hit stode
 A naturel day in derk / I let her duel
 Now wol I speke of Mars / furiose and wode 123
 For sorow he wold / haue sene his hert blode
 Sith that he myght / haue done her no companye
 He ne thoght not a myte / for to dye 126

(19)

So feble he wex / for hete and for his wo
 that nygh he swelt / he myght vnnethe endure
 He passeth but a sterre / in dayes two
 but ner the lesse / for al his heuy armure 130
 He foloweth her / that is his lyves cure
 For whos departyng / he toke gretter Ire
 Then for al his brennyng / in the fire . 133

(20)

After he walketh / softly A paas [leaf 17]
 Compleynyng / that hyt pite was to heree
 He seyde O lady / bryght Venus Alas
 that euere so wyde / a compas ys my speree 137
 Alas when shal I mete yow / hert dere
 this .xij. dayes / of apprile I endure
 Throgh Ielouse phebus / this mysaventure 140

(21)

Now god helpe / sely Venus allone
 but as god wolde / hyt happed for to be
 That while that Venus / weping made her mone
 Cilinius rydinge / in his cheuache 144
 Fro Venus Valaunes / myght his paleys se
 And Venus he salueth / and maketh chere
 And her receyueth / as his frende ful dere 147

(22)

Mars dwelleth forth / in hes ¹ aduersyte [¹ her altered]
 Compleynyng euer / on her departynge
 And what his compleynt was / remembreth me
 And therefore / in this lusty morwnynge 151
 As I best can / I wol hit seyn and synge
 And after that / I wol my leve take
 And god yif euery wyght / Ioy of his make 154

(23) [*The Proem.*]

The ordre of compleynt / requireth skylfully nota ¹
 that yf a wight / shal pleyn petously (1 in a later hand)
 Ther mot be cause / wherfore that men pleyn ¶ The copleynt
 other men may deme / he pleyneth folely of Mars. 158
 And causeles alas / that am not I
 Wherfor the grounde and cause / of al my peyn
 So as my troubled witte / may hit ateyn

I wol rehearse not / for to haue redresse
But to declare my grounde / of heuynesse 163

(24) [*First Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

The first tyme / alas that I was wroght
And for certeyn effectes / hider broght
Be him that lordeth / ech intelligence
I yaf my trwe seruise / and my thoght 167
For euer-more / how dere I haue hit boght [leaf 17, back]
that her that is / of so gret excelence
that what wight / that first sheweth his presence
When she is wrothe / and taketh of hym no cure
He may not longe in Ioye / of love endure 172

(25) (I. 2)

This is no feyned mater / that I telle
My lady is / the verrey sours and welle
of beaute lust / fredam and gentillesse
Of riche aray / how dere men hit selle 176
of al disport / in which men frendly duelle
of love and pley / and of benigne humblesse
of sovne of Instrumentes / of al suetnesse
And therto so wel fortunèd / and thewed
that thorow the worlde / her goodnesse is yshewed 181

^{nota}¹
(¹ in a later hand)

(26) (I. 3)

What wonder ys then / thogh I beset
my seruise on such on / that may me knet
to wele or wo / sith hit lythe in her myght
therfore my hert for euer / I to her hight 185
Ne truly for my dethe / I shal not let
to ben her truest seruaunt / and her knyght
I flater noght / that may wete euery wyght
For this day / in her seruise shal I dye
but grace be / I se her oenes¹ wyth ye [¹ altered from neuer] 190

(27) [*Second Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

To whom shal I pleyne / of my distresse
 Who may me helpe / who may my harme redresse
 shal I compleyn / vnto my lady fre
 Nay certes / for she hath such heuynesse 194
 For fere and eke for wo / that as I gesse
 In lytil tyme / hit wol her bane be
 but were she safe / hit wer no fors of me
 Alas that euer louers / mote endure
 For loue / so many a perilouse auenture 199

(28) (II. 2)

for tho so be / that louers be as trewe
 As eny metal / that is forged newe
 In mony a case / hem tydeth ofte sorowe
 Somme her ladies / wil not on hem rewe [leaf 18] 203
 somtyme yf that Ielosie / hyt knewe
 they myghten lyghtly / ley her hede to borowe
 somtyme envyous folke / with tungen horowe
 departen hem alas / whom may they plese
 but he be fals / no louer hath his ese 208

(29) (II. 3)

But what availeth / suche a longe sermoñ
 of auentures of love / vp and dovne
 I wol returne / and speken of my peyne
 the poynt is this / of my distruccioñ 212
 My right lady / my sauacyoñ
 Is in affray / and not to whom to pleyñ
 O hert suete / O lady souereyn
 For your disese / I oght wel sowne and swelt
 thogh I none other harme / ne drede felt 217

(30) [*Third Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

To what fyne made the god / that sitte so hye
 be-nethen loue / other companye
 And streyneth folke / to love malgre her hede
 And then her Ioy / for oght I can espye 221
 Ne lasteth not / the twynkelyng of an eye
 And somme han neuer Ioy / til they be dede
 What meneth this / what is this mystihede
 Wherto constreyneth he / his folke so fast
 thing to desyre / but hit shuld last 226

(31) (III. 2)

And thogh he made a loue / loue a thing
 And maketh hit seme / stidfast and during
 Yet putteth he in hyt / such mysauenture
 that rest nys ther / in his yevinge 230
 and that is wonder / that so Iuste a kynge
 doth such hardnesse / to his creature
 thus wether loue breke / or elles dure
 Algates he that hath / with loue to done
 hath offer wo / then changed ys the mone 235

(32) (III. 3)

Hit semeth he hath / to louers enemyte
 And lyke a fissher / as men alday may se
 Bateth hys angle-hoke / with summe plesaunce [leaf 18, back]
 til mony a fissch ys wode / to that he be 239
 Sesed ther-with ./ and then at erst hath he
 Al his desire / and ther-with al myschaunce
 And thogh the lyne breke / he hath penaunce
 For with the hoke / he wounded is so sore
 That he his wages / hathe for euer-more 244

(33) [*Fourth Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

The broche of thebes / was of such A kynde
 so ful of rubies / and of stones of ynde
 that euery wight / that set oñ hit an ye
 He wend anon / to worthe out of his mynde 248
 So sore the beaute / wold his hert bynde
 til he hit had / him thoght he must dye
 And whan hit was¹ then shuld he drye [¹ had is written over]
 such woo for drede / ay while that he hit had
 that welnygh for the fere / he shuld mad 253

(34) (IV. 2)

And whan hit was / fro his possession
 then had he double wo / and passion
 For he so feir a tresore / had forgo 257
 but yet this broche / as in conclusiõ
 Was not the cause / of this confusiõ
 but he that wroght hit / enfortune hit so
 that euery wight that had hit / shuld have wo
 And therfore in the worcher / was the vice
 And in the couetour / that was so nyce 262

(35) (IV. 3)

So fareth hyt by louers / and by me
 For thogh my lady / haue so gret beaute
 that I was mad² til I had gete her grace [² e added] 266
 she was not cause / of myñ aduersite
 but he that wroght her / as mot I the
 that put suche beaute / in her face
 that made me / coueten and purchase
 Myn ovne dethe / him wite I that I dye
 And myn ovne witte / that euer I clombe so hye 271

(36) [*Fifth Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

But to yow hardy knyghtis / of renouñ
 Syn that ye be / of my deuisiouñ [leaf 19]
 Al be I not worthy / to so grete a name
 yet seyn these clerkes / I am your patrouñ 275
 therfore ye oght / haue somme compassiō
 of my disese / and take hit not agame
 the pruddest of yow / may be made ful tame
 Wherefore I prey yow / of your gentillesse
 that ye compleyn / for myn heuynesse 280

(37) (V. 2)

And ye my ladyes / that ben true and stable
 be wey of kynde / ye oghten to be able
 to haue pite of folke / that be in peyñ
 Now haue ye cause / to clothe yow in sable 284
 sith that youre emperise / the honorable
 Is desolat / wel oght ye to pleyne
 Now shuld your holy teres / falle and reyne
 Alas your honour / and your emperise
 Negh ded for drede / ne can her not cheuisse 289

(38) (V. 3)

Compleyneth eke ye louers / al in fere
 For her that with vnfeyned / humble chere
 Was euere redy / to do yow socoure
 Complen her / that euere hath had yow der 293
 Compleyneth beaute / fredom and manere
 Compleyneth her / that endeth your labour
 Compleyneth thilke ensample / of al honour
 that neuer did / but gentillesse
 Kytheth therfor oñ her / summe kyndenesse 298

V.

*The ABC,**a Prayer to the Virgin Mary,*

(with its French original, from *Le Pèlerinage de la Vie Humaine*, by Guillaume de Deguileville, ab. 1330 A.D.)

From Guillaume De Deguileville's *Pèlerinage de l'Ame*, Part I, *Le Pèlerinage de la Vie Humaine*. Edited from the MS 1645, Fonds Français, in the National Library, Paris (A), and collated with the MSS 1649 (B), 376 (C), and 377 (D), in the same collection, by Paul Meyer.

(1. A.)

A toy du monde le refui,	[fol. 80, c.]
Vierge glorieuse, m'en fui	
Tout confus, ne puis miex faire ;	3
A toy me tien a toy m'apuy.	
Relieve moy, abatu suy :	
Vaincu m'a mon aversaire.	6
Puis qu'en toy ont tous repaire	[a]
Bien me doy vers toy retraire	
Avant que j'aie plus d'annuy.	9
N'est pas luite neccessaire	
A moy, se tu, debonnayre,	
Ne me sequeurs comme a autrui.	12

(2. B.)

Bien voy que par toy confortés	
Sera mes cuers desconfortés,	
Quer tu es de salu porte.	15
Se je me suis mal tresportez	
Par .vij. larrons, pechiés mortez,	
Et erre par voie torte,	18
Esperance me conforte	
Qui à toy hui me raporte	
A ce que soie deportez.	21
Ma povre arme je t'aporte :	
Sauve la : ne vaut que morte ;	
En li sont tous biens avortez.	24

3. *A* quar ne.—6. *A* mon grant a.—7. *A* Et puis qu'a.—8. *A* doy dont.—10. *A* tel lite.—11. *AC* se tu com ; *B* Se tu eulx dame debonnaire.—12. *B* Donne secour comme a autrui.—15. *ACD* salut la.—16. *D* transportés ; *B* tres mal portés.—18. *A* par la.—19. *A* reconforte.—20. *A* si me.—21. *B* sache deporter.—22. *A* te raporte ; *CD* je t'aporte.—23. *A* vaut miex ; *D* vaut plus.—24. *A* bien.

[MS Ff v. 30, Cambr. Univ. Libr., vellum, ? ab. 1420 A.D.,
leaf 112, back.]

Incipit carmen secundum ordinem Litterarum alphabeti.

(1. A.)

Al mihty and al merciabe queene	cap ^m . lvii ^m .
To whom þat al þis world fleeth for socour	[leaf 112, back]
To haue relees of sinne of sorwe and teene	
Gloriowse virgine of alle floures flour	4
To þee j flee confounded in errour	
Help and releue thou mihti debonayre.	
Haue mercy on my perilous langour	
Venquissed me hath my cruelle aduersaire	8

(2. B.)

Bountee so fix hath in þin herte his tente	
That wel j wot ^t thou wolt ^t my socour bee	
Thou canst ^t not ^t warne him þat with good entente	
Axeth þin helpe. þin herte is ay so free	12
þou art ^t largesse. of pleyn felicitee	
Hauene of refute of quiete and of reste.	
Loo how þat theeves sevene chasen mee	
Help lady briht er þat my ship to breste	16

(3. C.)

Contre moy font une accion	
Ma vergoigne et confusion,	
Que devant toy ne doy venir	[c] 27
Pour ma très grant transgression.	
Rayson et desperacion	
Contre moy veulent maintenir ;	30
Mès pour ce que veil plait fenir,	
Devant toy les fès convenir	
En faisant replicacion.	33
C'est que je di appartenir	
A toy du tout et convenir	
Pitié et miseracion.	36

(4. D.)

Dame es de misericorde	
Par qui Diex bien se recorde	
A sa gent estre racordé.	39
Par toy vint pes et concorde,	
Et fu pour oster discorde	
L'arc de justice descordé ;	42
Et pour ce me sui acordé	[fol. 81]
Toi mercier et concordé,	
Pour ce que ostas la corde ;	45
Quar, ainsi com j'ay recordé,	
S'encore fust l'arc encordé	
Comparé l'eust ma vie orde.	48

(5. E.)

En toy ay m'esperance eü	
Quant a merci m'as receü	
Autre foys en mainte guise	51
Du bien qui ou ciel fu creü	
As ravivé et repeü	
M'ame qui estoit occise.	54
Las ! mès quant la grant assise	
Sera, se n'y es assise	
Pour moy mal y seray veü.	57
De bien n'ay nulle reprise.	
Las m'en clain quant bien m'avise,	
Souvent en doy dire heü !	60

27. *B* doie.—29. *B* Raisons de.—38. *A* si se racorde, *the second word being added between the lines* ; *B* Dieu veult bien recorde ; *D* très bien se recorde.—43, 44. *A* acordés, concordés, *which reading more conforms to the old French grammar, but spoils the rhyme*.—45. *B* que ousté as.—46. *A* com je acorde ; *B* com j'ay racordé ; *but recordé is kept by the other MSS.*—49. *A* m'esperance ay ; *B* ay mon esperance.—50. *B* Car a.—51. *B* et en.—53. *B* receu.—57. *B* y seray mal venu.

(3. C.)

Comfort is noon but in yow ladi deere
 ffor loo my sinne and my confusioun
 Which ouhten not in þi presence appeere
 Han take on me a greevous accioun 20
 Of verrey riht and desperacioun
 And as bi riht þei mihten wel susteene.
 þat j were wurþi my dampnacioun
 Nere merci of you blisful heuene queene 24

(4. D.)

Dowte is þer noon þou queen of misericorde
 þat þou nart cause of grace and merci heere
 God vouched saf thoruh þee with us to accorde
 ffor certes crystes blisful mooder deere 28
 Were now þe bowe bent in swich maneere [leaf 113]
 As it was first of justice and of jre.
 þe rihtful god nolde of no mercy heere
 But thoruh þee han we grace as we desire 32

(5. E.)

Euere hath myn hope of refuit been in þee
 ffor heer biforn ful ofte in many a wyse
 Hast þou to misericorde resceyued me
 But merci ladi at þe grete assyse 36
 Whan we shule come bifore þe hye iustyse
 So litel fruit shal þanne in me be founde.
 þat but þou er þat day me chastyse
 Of verrey riht my werk me wole confounde 40

(6. F.)

Fuiant m'en viens a ta tente	
Moy mucier pour la tormente	
Qui ou monde me tempeste.	63
Pour mon pechié ne t'absente,	
A moy garder met t'entente,	
A mon besoing soiez preste.	66
Se lonc temps j'ay esté beste	
A ce, Vierge, je m'arreste	
Que de ta grace me sente.	69
Si te fais aussi requeste	
Que ta pitié nu me veste,	
Car je n'ay nulle autre rente.	72

(7. G.)

Glorieuse vierge mere	
Qui a nul onques amere	
Ne fus en terre ne en mer,	75
Ta douceur ores m'apere	
Et ne sueffres que mon pere	
De devant li me jecte puer.	78
Se devant li tout vuit j'apper,	
Et par moy ne puis eschapper	
Que ma faute ne compere.	81
Tu devant li pour moy te per	
En li moustrant que, s'a li per	
Ne sui, si est il mon frere.	84

(8. H.)

Homme vult par sa plaisance	
Devenir, pour aliance	
Avoir a humain lignage.	87
Avec li crut dès enfance	
Pitié dont j'ai esperance	
Avoir eu en mon usage.	90
Elle fu mise a forage	
Quant au cuer lui vint mesage	
Du cruel fer de la lance.	93
Ne puet estre, se sui sage,	
Que je n'en aie avantage,	
Se tu veus et abondance.	96

61. *A* m'en fui.—62. *A* pour sa grant.—65. *ACD* omit t'.—69. *ABCD* je me sente.—75. *B* N'es.—78. *B* per.—79. *B* li ne voit japer.—81. *A* m'anfance; *the verse is omitted in D*.—82. *A* t'apper.—85. *B* sa puissance.—90. *A* A avoir en moy; *B* Avoir en en mon; *C* Avoir eu a mon.—91. *A* misse a folage.—92. *A* me vint.—95. *A* n'aie a.

(6. F.)

Fleeinge j flee for socour to þi tente
 Me for to hide from tempeste ful of dreede
 Biseeching yow þat ye you not absente
 þouh j be wikke. O help yit' at' þis neede 44
 Al haue j ben a beste in wil and deede
 Yit ladi þou me cloþe with þi grace.
 þin enemy and myn ladi tak heede
 Vn to my deth in poynt' is me to chace 48

(7. G.)

Gloriows mayde and mooder which þat neuere
 Were bitter neiþer in eerþe nor in see
 But' ful of swetnesse & of merci euere
 Help þat my fader be not wroth with me 52
 Spek þou for j ne dar not him ysee
 So haue j doon in eerþe allas þer while
 þat' certes but if þou my socour bee
 To stink eterne he wole my gost exile 56

(8. H.)

He vouched saaf tel him as was his wille [leaf 113, lack]
 Bicomem a man to haue oure alliaunce
 And with his precious blood he wrot þe bille
 Vp on þe crois as general acquitaunce 60
 To euery Penitent' in ful criaunce
 And þerfore ladi briht' þou for us praye.
 þanne shalt þou boþe stinte al his greuaunce
 And make oure foo to failen of his praye 64

(9. I.)

Je ne truis par nulle voie	
Ou mon salut si bien voie	
Com, après Dieu, en toy le voy ;	99
Quar quant aucun se desvoie,	
A ce que tost se ravoie,	
De ta pitié li fais convoy.	102
Tu li fès lessier son desroy	
Et li refaiz sa pais au roy,	
Et remez en droite voie.	105
Moult est donc cil en bon arroy,	
En bon atour, en bon conroy	
Que ta grace si conroie.	108

(10. K.)

Kalendier sont enluminé	
Et autre livre enteriné	
Quant ton non les enlumine.	111
A tout meschief ont resiné	
Ceus qui se sont acheminé	
A toy pour leur medecine.	114
A moy donc, virge, t'encline,	[c]
Car a toy je m'achemine	
Pour estre bien mediciné ;	117
Ne sueffre que de gainne	
Isse justice devine	
Par quoy je soye exterminé.	120

(11. L.)

La douceur de toy pourtraire	
Je ne puis, a qui retraire	
Doit ton filz de ton sanc estrait ;	123
Pour ce a toy m'ay volu traire	
Afin que contre moy traire	
Ne le sueuffres nul cruel trait.	126
Je reconnois bien mon mesfait	
Et qu'au colier j'ai souvent trait	
Dont l'en me devroit detraire ;	129
Mez se tu veus tu as l'entrait	
Par quoy tantost sera retrait	
Le mehain qui m'est contraire.	132

104. *A* Et li fais.—105. *C* droite roye.—106. *A* Moult vont cil ; *B* en bon conroy.—107. *B* et en bon aroy.—108. *C* conroye ; *the verse is omitted in D*.—112. *A* resigné ; *B* reiné, *corrected according to the other MSS*.—113. *A* omits se.—115. *B* omits t'.—117. *B* Pour moy estre m.—118. *A* que desgaygne ; *C* de sa gaine.—119. *A* justice de gaine.—121. *A* pourtraite.—123. *A* sanc pourtraire.—125. *B* que vers moy se vueillet.—126. *A* sueuffre.

(9. I.)

I wot^t it wel þou wolt^t ben oure socour
 þou art^t so ful of bowntee in certeyn
 ffor whan a soule falleth in errour
 þi pitee goth & haleth him ayein 68
 þanne makest^t þou his pees with his souereyn
 And bringest him out^t of þe crooked strete.
 Who so þee loueth he shal not^t loue in veyn
 þat shal he fynde as he þe lyf shal lete 72

(10. K.)

Kalendeeres enlumyned ben þei
 þat^t in þis world ben lighted *with* þi name
 And who so goth to yow þe rihte wey
 Him thar not^t drede in soule to be lame 76
 Now queen of comfort^t sithe þou art^t þat same
 To whom j seeche for my medicyne.
 Lat not^t my foo no more my wounde vntame
 Myn hele in to þin hand al j resyne 80

(11. L.)

Ladi þi sorwe kan j not^t portreye
 Vnder þe cros. ne his greevous penaunce
 But for youre boþes peynes j yow preye
 Lat not^t oure alder foo make his bobaunce 84
 That^t he hath in hise lystes of mischaunce [leaf 114]
 Conuict^t þat ye boþe haue bouht^t so deere.
 As j seide erst^t þou ground of oure substaunce
 Continue on us þi pitous eyen cleere 88

(12. M.)

Moyse vit en figure	
Que tu, vierge nete et pure,	
Jhesu le filz Dieu conceüs :	135
Un bysson contre nature	
Vit qui ardoit sans arsüre.	
C'es tu, n'en suis point deceüs,	138
Dex est li feus qu'en toy eüs ;	
Et tu, buisson des recreüz	
Es, pour tremper leur ardure.	141
A ce veoir, vierge, veüs	
Soie par toy et receüs,	
Oste chaussement d'ordure.	144

(13. N.)

Noble princesse du monde	
Qui n'as ne per ne seconde	
En royaume n'en enpire,	147
De toy vient, de toy redonde	
Tout le bien qui nous abonde,	
N'avons autre tirelire.	150
En toy tout povre homme espire	[a]
Et de toy son salu tire,	
Et en toy seule se fonde.	153
Ne puet nul penser ne dire,	
Nul pourtraire ne escrire	
Ta bonté comme est parfonde.	156

(14. O.)

O Lumiere des non voians	
Et vrai repos des recreans	
Et de tout bien tresoriere,	159
A toy sont toutez gens beans	
Qui en la foy sont bien creans	
Et en toy ont foy entiere ;	162
A nul onques ne fus fiere,	
Ains toy deïs chamberiere	
Quant en toy vint li grans geans.	165
Or es de Dieu chanceliere	
Et de graces aumosniere	
Et confort a tous recreans.	168

141. *A* Et pour.—142. *A* voir ; *B* vierge euz.—144. *C* chauce-
ment ; *D* thancement (!).—145. *B* duchesse.—148. *A* redoubte.—
149. *A* tout se.—151. *A omits* tout, *C omits* homme.—156. *A* Ta
bonde.—157. *A* O luminaire des nons.—165. *B* à toy ; *A* le grant
geant.—166. *A* chanceliere.—167. *A* grace.—168. *BC* Et du tout
a tous agreans.

(12. M.)

Moises þat sauh þe bush with flawmes rede
 Brenninge. of which þer neuer a stikke brende
 Was signe of þin vnwemmed maidenhede
 þou art þe bush on which þer gan descende 92
 þe holigost þe which þat moyses wende
 Had ben a fyir and þis was in figure.
 Now ladi from þe fyir þou us deufende
 Which þat in helle eternalli shal dure 96

(13. N.)

Noble princesse þat neuere haddest peere
 Certes if any comfort in us bee
 þat cometh of þee þou cristes mooder deere
 We han noon ooper melodye or glee 100
 Vs to reioyse in oure aduersitee
 Ne aduocat noon þat wole & dar so preye.
 ffor us. and þat for litel hire as yee
 þat helpen for an Aue marie or tweye 104

(14. O.)

O verrey light of eyen þat ben blynde
 O verrey lust of labour and distresse
 O tresoreere of bountee to mankynde
 þee whom god ches to mooder for humblesse 108
 ffrom his ancille he made þe maistresse
 Of heuene & eerþe. oure bille up for to beede.
 þis world awaiteth euere on þi goodnesse
 ffor þou ne failest neuere wight at neede 112

(15. P.)

Pris m'est volenté d'enquerre
 Pour savoir que Diex vint querre
 Quant en toy se vint enserrer; 171
 En toy devint vers de terre;
 Ne cuit pas que fust pour guerre
 Ne pour moy jus aterrer. 174
 Vierge, se ne me sens errer,
 D'armes ne me faut point ferrer
 Fors sans plus de li requerre. 177
 Quant pour moy se vint enterrer,
 Se il ne se veut desterrer
 Encor puis s'amour acquerre. 180

(16. Q.)

Quant pourpensé après me sui
 Qu'ay offendu et toy et lui,
 Et qu'a mal est m'ame duite, 183
 Que, fors pechié, en moi n'estui,
 Et que mal hyer et pis m'est hui,
 Tost après si me ranvite, 186
 Vierge douce, se pren fuite,
 Se je fui a la poursuite,
 Ou fuiray, qu'a mon refui? 189
 S'a nul bien je ne m'affruite [fol. 82]
 Et mas sui avant que luite,
 Plus grief encore en est l'anuy. 192

(17. R.)

Reprens moy, mere, et chastie
 Quar mon pere n'ose mie
 Attendre a mon chastiment. 195
 Son chastoy si fiert a hie;
 Rien n'ataint que tout n'esmie
 Quant il veut prendre vengeance. 198
 Mere, bien doi tel batement
 Doubter, quar en empirement
 A tous jours esté ma vie. 201
 A toy dont soit le jugement,
 Car de pitié as l'oingnement,
 Mès que merci l'en te prie. 204

172. *C* com ver.—174. *Sic ABCD*; the verse is one syllable too short.—175. *A* omits ne.—176. *B* fault pas.—177. *A* Fors que; *B* del r.—178. *A* s'en vint en terre.—180. *A* encore.—184. *A* en est hui; *B* en moy ne truy; *D* en moi ne sui.—186. *A* raviue; *D* ravite; *B* Tantoust a. si me ravite.—187. *AB* se je.—191. *A* mat.—188-89. *From C*; both are left out in *A*; *B* (188) Toust je.—194. *A* je n'ose.—196. *B* lui fiert.—200. *AC* en enpirant.—202. *A* en soit.—203. *Omitted in A*; *B* Car de pieça as l'oingnement; *C* Car de pitié as longuement.—204. *BC* on te.

(15. P.)

Purpos I haue sum time for to enquire [leaf 114, back]

Wherfore and whi þe holi gost þee souhte

Whan gabrielles vois cam vn to þin ere

He not to werre us swich a wunder wrouhte 116

But for to saue us þat he sithen bouhte

þanne needeth us no wepene us for to saue

But oonly þer we diden not as us ouhte

Doo penitence and merci axe and haue 120

(16. Q.)

Queen of comfort yit whan j me bithinke

þat j agilt haue boþe him and þee

And þat my soule is wurthi for to sinke

Allas j caityf whider may I flee 124

Who shal vn to þi sone my mene bee

Who but þi self þat art of pitee welle.

þou hast more reuthe on oure aduersitee

þan in þis world miht any tunge telle 128

(17. R.)

Redresse me mooder and me chastise

ffor certeynly my faderes chastisinge

þat dar j nouht abiden in no wise

So hidous it is hys rihtful rekenynge 132

Mooder of whom oure merci gan to springe

Beth ye my juge & eek my soules leche

ffor euere in you is pitee haboundinge

To eche þat wole of pitee you biseeche 136

(18. S.)

Sans toy nul bien ne foysonne	
Et sans toy Diex riens ne donne,	
Quar de tout t'a fet maistresse.	207
Quant tu veus trestout pardonne ;	
Et par toy est mise bonne	
A justice la mairesse ;	210
N'est royne ne princesse	
Pour qui nul ainsi se cesse	
Et de droit se dessaisonne.	213
Du monde es gouverneresse,	
Et du ciel ordeneresse ;	
Sans reson n'as pas couronne.	216

(19. T.)

Temple saint ou Dieu habite	
Dont privé sont li herite	
Et a tous jours desherité,	219
A toy vieng de toy me herite	
Reçoif moy par ta merite	
Quar de toy n'ay point hesité.	222
Et se je me sui herité	
Des espines d'iniquité	
Pour quoy terre fu maudite,	225
Las m'en clain en verité,	
Car a ce fait m'a excité	[b]
L'ame qui n'en est pas quite.	228

(20. V.)

Vierge de noble et haut atour,	
Qui au chastel et a la tour	
De paradis nous atournes,	231
Atourne moy ens et entour	
De tel atour que au retour	
De ta grace me retournes,	234
Se vil sui, si me raournes.	
A toy vieng, ne te destournes,	
Quer au besoing es mon destour.	237
Sequeur moy, point ne sejournes,	
Ou tu a la court m'ajournes,	
Ou ta pitié fait son sejour.	240

207. *A* mestraisse.—211. *A* ne royne.—212. *B* par quoy.—216. *A* n'a.—221. *A* ton merite.—222. *A* herité.—226. *A* Las me ; *the verse is too short in ABCD ; read me en ?*—227. *A* omits fait.—236. *A* ne me.—237. *A* retour.

(18. S.)

Soth is þat god ne granteth no pitee
 With oute þee. for god of his goodnesse
 fforyiveth noon but it like vn to þee
 He hath þee maked vicair & maistresse 140
 Of al þe world. and eek gouernowresse [leaf 115]
 Of heuene. and he represeth his iustise.
 After þi wil. and þerfore in witnesse
 He hath þee corowned in so rial wise 144

(19. T.)

Temple deuout þer god hath his woninge
 ffro which þese misbileeued depriued been
 To you my soule penitent j bringe
 Resceyue me. I can no ferþere fleen 148
 With thornes venymous O heuene queen
 ffor which þe eerþe acursed was ful yore.
 I am wounded as ye may wel seen
 þat j am lost almost it smert so sore 152

(20. V.)

Virgine þat art so noble of apparaile
 And ledest us in to þe hye toure
 Of Paradys. þou me wisse and counsaile
 How j may haue þi grace & þi socour 156
 Al haue j ben in filthe and in errour
 Ladi vn to þat court þou me aiourne
 þat cleped is þi bench. O fresh flour
 þer as þat merci euere shal soiourne 160

(21. X = Ch.)

X̄pc ton filz, qui descendi En terre et en la crois pendi, Ot pour moy le costé fendu.	243
Sa grant rigour il destendi Quant pour moy l'esperit rendi, Son corps pendant et estendu ;	246
Pour moy son sanc fu expandu. Se ceci j'ai bien entendu A mon salut bien entendu,	249
Et pour ce, se l'ay offendu Et il ne le m'a pas rendu, Merci t'en rens, graces l'en di.	252

(22. Y.)

Ysaac le prefigura Qui de sa mort rien ne cura En obeissant au pere.	255
Comme .j. aignel tout endura ; En endurent tout espura Par crueuse mort amere.	258
O très douce vierge mere, Par ce fait fai que se pere Par plour l'ame qui cuer dur a ;	261
Fai que grace si m'apere ; Et n'en soiez pas avere	[c] 264
Quar largement la misura.	

(23. Z.)

Zacharie de mon somme Me exite, et si me somme D'en toy ma merci attendre ;	267
Fontaine patent te nomme Pour laver pecheür homme : C'est leçon bonne a aprendre.	270
Se tu donc as le cuer tendre Et m'offense n'est pas mendre De cil qui menga la pomme,	273
Moy laver veillez entendre, Moy garder et moy deffendre, Que justice ne m'asomme.	276

243. *A CD* Et pour; *B* Eut.—244. *A* rogeur y descendi.—247. *From C*; *A* son sanc fu despendu; *B*, *one step farther*, son corps fut despendu.—248. *A* Se ci.—255. *A* obeisant o pere.—256. *A* engnel.—257. *A* Et endurent.—260. *B* scay que; *A* se paire; *BD* ce pere.—262. *A* mi apere.—263. *A* aveire.—267. *A* Sen toy.—268. *A* ce nomme.

(21. X = Ch.)

X̄pc¹ þi sone þat in þis world alighte
 Vp on þe cros to suffre his passioun
 And eek suffred þat longius his herte pighte
 And made his herte blood to renne adoun 164
 And al was þis for my saluacioun
 And j to him am fals and eek vnkynde
 And yit he wole not my dampnacioun
 þis thanke j yow socour of al mankynde 168

(22. Y.)

Ysaac was figure of his deth certeyn [leaf 115, back]
 þat so fer forth his fader wolde obeye
 þat him ne rouhte no thing to be slayn
 Riht soo þi sone lust as a lamb to deye 172
 Now ladi ful of merci j yow preye
 Sithe he his merci measured so large.
 Be ye not skant. for alle we singe & seye
 þat ye ben from vengeaunce ay oure targe 176

(23. Z.)

Zacharie yow clepeth þe opene welle
 To wasshe sinful soule out of his gilt
 þerfore þis lessoun ouht j wel to telle
 þat nere þi tender herte we weren spilt 180
 Now ladi sithe þou canst and wilt
 Ben to þe seed of Adam merciabile.
 Bring us to þat palais þat is bilt
 To penitentes þat ben to merci able Amen 184

Explicit carmen.

¹ The contraction for "Christ".

(24. & = *et.*)

Ethiques s'avoie leü,	
Tout recordé et tout sceü,	
Et après riens n'en ouvrasse	279
Du tout seroie deceü.	
Aussi con cil qui est cheü,	
En sa rois et en sa nasse.	282
Vierge, m'ame je claim lasse,	
Quar en toy priant se lasse	
Et si ne fait point son deü.	285
Pou vault chose que je amasse ;	
Ma priere n'est que quasse	
S'a bien je ne sui esmeü.	288

(25. 9 = *con.*)

Contre moy doubt que ne prie	
Ou que en vain merci ne crie.	
Je te promet amandement ;	291
Et pour ce que je ne nie	
Ma promesse, je t'en lie	
L'ame de moy en gaigement ;	294
Puis si te pri finalement	
Que quant sera mon finement	
Tu ne me defailles mie :	297
Pour moy soies au jugement	
Afin que hereditablement	[d]
J'aie pardurable vie.	300

AMEN.

277. *A* tout veü.—285. *C* pas son.—289. *AB* que je ne.—290. *A* merci je.—292. *A* je nay mie.—297. *From C*; *A* Vierge tu ne me failles mie; *B* Tu ne me failles donc m.—299. *A* heritablement. *Here, as in other verses (220, 286, 290), the e of the preceding monosyllabic word is elided.*

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